A

SHORT HISTORY

OF

BARBADOS.

G.R.
III.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF BARBADOS,

FROM

Its First Discovery and Settlement

TO

The Present Time.

A NEW EDITION,

Corrected and Enlarged.

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SHORT HISTORY

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FROM

A NEW EDITION

LONDON:

PREFACE.

THE Author of the following ſheets hath endeavoured faithfully, and impartially, to relate the events that concern the ancient colony of Barbados. His motive to this attempt, was in ſome degree a gratification of his amuſement, by filling up ſome leiſure hours, in a manner not totally uſeleſs to himſelf or the

public; but principally to ſhew, that Barbados hath always preſerved a uniform and ſteady attachment to Great Britain, and therefore is intitled to the affection and indulgence of the mother country. All people naturally wiſh to receive ſome account of their native country; of its conſtitution, and its progreſs to power and opulence. If then this ſhort performance, meets the approbation, or adds to the amuſement, or gratifies the curioſity, of the natives of that iſland, the Author will think the time he has employed in this compoſition not miſpent.

He

He is aware, that ſome readers will think this volume too conciſe; in truth, he intended it only as an introduction to a more general hiſtory; but he has neither inclination or phlegm enough to ſpin out ſo dry a ſubject to a greater length: ſome one with equal leiſure, and greater abilities, may improve, and make more perfect, this work. He knows that there may be other readers who will attempt to diſcover greater faults; theſe ſhould read the fable of the Miller, his Son, and their Aſs. To ſatisfy the generality of the world, is highly improbable; to pleaſe the whole of

it, impoſſible: we continually find that very able authors, writing upon the moſt important ſubjects, are roughly handled by the artful critic; how then can a writer expect to eſcape, who wiſhes not for applauſe, but is ambitious only of ſerving the country he treats of, and who cares not a jot for the cenſorious critic's rod.—What is ſaid upon the ſubject of Privileges, is offered only for the benefit of Barbados, and for no other view or reaſon whatever: As to the ſuppoſition of this part of the hiſtory being intended to injure any man, 'tis a thought the Author deſpiſes, as heartily as he does the remark-

remarker who ſuggeſted it: the Hero of the page muſt be repreſented in his true colours, which are really not intended (nor never were intended) to be exaggerated; though the Author muſt confeſs, he is not ſorry, if the lot has fallen to a Don-Quixot-like Knight.

Indeed it is ſtrange, that not any [a] Hiſtorical Account hath ever ap-

[a] Ligon's Account does not contain a ſpace of forty years, and only tells us of the firſt ſettlers. The Account of Barbados in the Britiſh Empire in America is a very ſmall part of a large work in two volumes. Whether the Memoirs of the firſt Settlement of Barbados, publiſhed in 1742, can be called an Hiſtorical Account, muſt be ſubmitted to the Reader.

peared of an iſland of ſo much conſequence to the mother country as Barbados is, whoſe loyalty has often been experienced; whoſe aſſiſtance never was denied; and whoſe acquieſcence to the authority of Great Britain [b] a late remarkable inſtance has fully exemplified. An iſland too, to which belongs a merit peculiar to itſelf; it has not, for threeſcore years paſt, coſt one ſhilling of expence to Great Britain, except a few pieces of cannon that were granted upon application many years ago; what ſalaries are paid by the crown to its

[b] Stamp Act.

officers,

officers, are all provided by the four and half *per cent.* duty.

The diſtance of time and place, and the difficulty of gathering materials, will, it is hoped, excuſe any miſrepreſentations, or other errors that may appear in this work. The Author's acquaintance with many of the circumſtances he relates, authentic matters of record, and the aſſiſtance of ſome old writers, as well as ſome of modern date, have enabled him to throw together the following anecdotes. He hath been particularly attentive to the relation of facts. Truth ought to be the foundation upon which every

ſcrib-

ſcribbling builder ſhould erect his fabric; notwithſtanding the pleaſant remark of an ingenious [c] author, whoſe works the actions of mankind give too great ſanction to. "Truth," ſays this elegant writer, "by her native beauty is "ſure to charm; yet, from her re-"pugnancy to moſt men's intereſts, "ſhe is ſeldom welcome; politici-"ans are afraid of her, parties de-"teſt her, and all profeſſions agree, "that ſhe is very dangerous if ſuf-"fered to go about in public."

[c] Jenyns's Origin of Evil.

WHEN

WHEN this edition was preparing for the preſs, the Author was favored with a ſight of ſome remarks, publiſhed in Barbados, upon the firſt edition of this work. Theſe remarks contain ſome aſſertions that are falſe, many confutable, and all of them uncandid, and ungenerous. They are written with the peeviſhneſs of a child, whoſe play-things have been diſturbed; and with an impetuoſity, that ſhews the remarker has been touched upon a ſore part, and that he has felt the rub. The remarker will not be indulged with a reply, be-

cauſe

cauſe a reply would be food for his diſtempered appetite, and would run him into his delightful, hobby-horſical labyrinth, through which Job's patience only could ſupport the purſuit of him: but if ever Fate ſhould bring together in the ſame Iſland, the remarker and the author, they may be better acquainted, for the latter will not wiſh to conceal himſelf from his angry friend the remarker. For the preſent, the Writer of the remarks; who is well known, and whoſe pen, driven on by his cacoethes ſcribendi, *like a barber's ſciſſars, is always ſnipping whether it cuts or not; will be permitted to ride his hobby-horſe, in*

full

full ſpeed, uninterrupted; and to indulge, unmoleſted, his talent for controverſy, which he takes naturally to, like fiſhes in India, that are ſaid to have worms in their heads, and ſwim always againſt the ſtream.

A SHORT

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HISTORY of BARBADOS.

Of its Situation, Settlement, and Government.

BARBADOS, the moſt conſiderable, and moſt windward of the Caribbee iſlands, extends from latitude 13 to 13. 20 N. and from longitude 58. 50 to 59. 3 W. from London, and is about thirty miles long, and twenty broad. Its ſituation gives it many advantages over the other Caribbees; particularly that of its being the firſt port where proviſion ſhips and others uſually ſtop. It is ſtrange that the Engliſh in general

are

are ſo much in the dark as they are, with regard to their original poſſeſſion of that valuable iſland: nor can it be otherwiſe accounted for, than by the firſt coloniſts being ſo much immerſed in commercial purſuits, that they gave very little attention to matters of mere curioſity. Even the origin of its name is doubtful; ſome attributing it to a tree, whoſe diſtant appearance reſembles a human beard. Others, perhaps with more probability, think, that it was firſt called Los Barbados by the Portugueſe, from the barbarous uncultivated proſpect it afforded.

The author of the Natural Hiſtory of Barbados has laboured to prove, that this iſland was once inhabited by Indians; but his arguments are all conjectural; he tells us, that many Indian inſtruments and Indian huts, were found here by the firſt ſettlers; but we have not any cer-

tain account of Indians having ever been diſcovered in this iſland: nor any remains ſeen of the antient Caribbeans. It is not improbable, however, but theſe inſtruments might have been brought hither, and theſe huts built, by the Portugueſe, who might have ſtopt here in their voyages to and from Brazil.

When the Engliſh firſt diſcovered Barbados, is not with certainty aſcertained; but from the moſt probable accounts we are led to conclude, it muſt have been between the years 1615 and 1624. When the great fire happened in Bridge-Town in 1668, when many records were deſtroyed, ſome papers were preſerved, which were afterwards printed; by theſe it appeared, that an Engliſh ſhip called the Olive, homeward bound from Guiney, touched there, and landed ſome men, who ſet up a croſs in or near St.

James's Town, and marked on a tree, "James king of England, and this iſland." Afterwards, about the year 1624, it is clear, from many authentic accounts, that a ſhip belonging to Sir William Courteen (one of the moſt conſiderable merchants in London) ſtopt at this iſland. About thirty of the crew landed, and made a ſettlement on the weſtward part of the iſland; although they found the country entirely uninhabited, and overgrown with thick woods.

They choſe William Deane their leader, and erected the Britiſh colours upon the infant fortifications. At the return of this ſhip to England, the favourable report made of the iſland, induced Sir William Courteen and his friends to fit out two ſhips, with all kinds of neceſſaries for planting and fortifying this new acquired iſland; but his deſign

was

was no ſooner known, than Hay Earl of Carliſle applied for and obtained a gift from the crown of all the Caribbee iſlands. This, however, did not prevent Courteen's ſhips from ſailing; for the Earl of Carliſle happened at that time to be abroad upon an embaſſy; and Courteen availing himſelf of the earl's abſence, prevailed on his friend and patron, the earl of Pembroke, to obtain from Charles I. a grant of this iſland, in truſt for Courteen; in conſequence of which, ſeveral adventurers went out in Courteen's ſhips.

When the earl of Carliſle returned from his embaſſy, he was ſurprized to hear of the ſettlement that had been made upon an iſland that was within his prior grant, and reſolved to defeat it: to this end, he made an agreement with five or ſix merchants of London for ten

thouſand acres in the nature of a leaſe, to be ſettled under the direction of a perſon of their own chuſing: the choice fell upon Charles Woolferſtone, who went to Barbados with ſixty-four perſons, to whom the ten thouſand acres had been grnated. Woolferſtone, ſoon after his arrival, emitted a proclamation, in which he treated the Pembroke ſettlement as an uſurpation, and ſummoned thoſe ſettlers to appear at the Bridge-Town: they obeyed; and being few in number, ſubmitted to Carliſle's authority.—The earl of Carliſle now applied to the throne to redreſs his grievances; complaining of the wrongs done him by Sir William Courteen.—The king hereupon annulled the grant to the earl of Pembroke; and gave to the earl of Carliſle a ſecond patent, dated in April 1629, confirming the former, and explaining all doubts that had ariſen thereto.

In

In 1629 the earl of Carliſle ſent out colonel Henry Hawley, governor of Barbados; and though there were then but few inhabitants in the country, yet from this period to the government of Mr. Bell in 1641 (when the civil war drove great numbers of people from England thither) we find the iſland to have been continually in a ſtate of mutiny and internal diſſentions: owing to the arbitrary and violent diſpoſition of Mr. Hawley, who was, at laſt, ſent a priſoner to England, and his poſſeſſions ſeized by Henry Hunkes for treaſonable practices.

The earl of Carliſle confirmed and approved the conduct of Hunkes, who aſſumed the command of this little colony until the year 1641, when the earl appointed Philip Bell lieutenant-governor of Barbados.

During the government of Mr. Bell, Barbados was ſettled, and a conſtitutional ſyſtem eſtabliſhed. Laws were framed for the ſecurity of property, and puniſhment of vice. Then it was that the calamities of England ſerved to people Barbados. Then it was that this infant colony afforded a ſafe retreat to the inhabitants of her mother-country, where many families, antient and opulent, having expended their patrimony in ſupport of monarchy, or having been plundered of their wealth by uſurpers, ſought in this diſtant iſle the re-eſtabliſhment of that fortune they had been robbed of, and the enjoyment of that peace they had been denied in their native land.——Thus was Barbados peopled and ſettled. [d] An old author, treating of this iſland, tells us, that Barbados was ſooneſt peopled of all

[d] See vol. II. of the Britiſh Empire in America.

our

our colonies, and was ſettled by gentlemen of good families, and moderate fortunes.

To prove this aſſertion, we could here mention many of the firſt ſettlers, who were tempted to migrate hither, and make this colony their aſylum; whoſe anceſtors were ſeated with a comfortable affluence in different parts of England, and particularly in the counties of Cornwall, Devonſhire, Staffford, Surry, Middleſex, Eſſex, Suffolk, Kent: but mankind are all of a race equally antient; and the buſineſs of hiſtory is not to follow whimſical genealogiſts, but to preſent objects, and relate facts, worthy to employ the attention of reaſonable beings.

During this period the inhabitants increaſed ſo faſt, that it was computed

that in 1650 there were twenty thouſand white men; and that the iſland could then muſter ten thouſand foot, and one thouſand horſe, for its defence. Governor Bell now thought of making proper regulations for the government of an iſland become ſo populous and important. He, by the advice of a council of his own appointing conſiſting of ten gentlemen, formed an aſſembly to repreſent the people. The iſland was divided into four circuits and eleven pariſhes.——The great increaſe of white men upon the iſland, occaſioned a proportionable increaſe of blacks to cultivate the land: this colony therefore was obliged, like the French and Spaniards, to import from Africa large numbers of negroes. This was at that time a dangerous, becauſe a new expedient. Theſe negroes in a ſhort

time

time beheld themſelves more numerous, and therefore they thought themſelves more powerful, than their maſters. Not being, as they afterwards were, and now are, habituated to the intercourſe of Europeans, they ſoon entered into conſpiracies: and ſo far were they hurried by a general ſpirit of diſcontent, that they even fixed upon a day for an univerſal riſing; but the day before the maſſacre was to have taken place, one of the party diſcovered the plot to his maſter Mr. Hotherſall, who, by ſending immediate notice to the inhabitants, prevented the execution of the conſpiracy, and brought the offenders to juſtice.

It is probable, that the multiplicity of buſineſs of the Britiſh government about this period prevented that attention to the affairs of Barbados, which ought

ought to have been given to an infant colony. Mr. Bell continued to act under the proprietary commiſſion, until Francis lord Willloughby not only obtained from Charles II. during his exile, a commiſſion to be governor of Barbados, but alſo covenanted with the earl of Carliſle for a term of years, upon a certain conſideration in the nature of a fee-farm rent, to be the proprietary governor likewiſe. In 1650 Francis lord Willoughby arrived at Barbados. He found the country flouriſhing and populous, and the generality of the inhabitants well affected to the royal cauſe. One of the firſt ſteps of his adminiſtration was to ſummon an aſſembly, which paſſed an act, intituled, "An Acknowledgment and declaration "of the inhabitants of Barbados of "his majeſty's right to the dominion "of this iſland, and the right of the

" earl of Carliſle derived from his ſaid " majeſty; and alſo for the unanimous " profeſſion of the true religion in this " iſland, and impoſing condign puniſh- " ment on the oppoſers thereof." The governor alſo, aſſiſted by the iſland, acted with great ſpirit and ſucceſs in fitting out ſhips, and raiſing men, to reduce the neighbouring iſlands under his government to acknowledge the royal authority,

In the mean time it was notified to the governor, to encourage him in the cauſe, and to gain his aſſiſtance on the occaſion, that prince Rupert, who commanded the Royal fleet, intended to ſail to Barbados, and to ſecure all the Engliſh American poſſeſſions for the king. But this ſcheme being diſcovered in England, a powerful ſquadron was equipt under the command of Sir George

George Aſcue, whoſe intention was to intercept prince Rupert, and to reduce Barbados, and the other iſlands in the Weſt-Indies, to the obedience of the Commonwealth. Sir George cruized ſome time off Spain and Portugal, where he miſſed prince Rupert, and from whence he bent his courſe towards Barbados, and on the 16th of October 1651, he appeared off Bridge-Town with his ſquadron, and ſeized a few ſhips that were in Carliſle-bay; but he found the ſervice he was ſent upon more difficult than he imagined. The ſight of ſuch an hoſtile fleet was far from being agreeable to the inhabitants of a young colony, yet Lord Willoughby and the natives appeared determined to defend the iſland to the laſt extremity; and indeed the defence made upon this occaſion is not to be wondered at; for, excluſive of the principle

ciple upon which that particular ſet of men acted, we ſhall find in general, that the inhabitants of diſtant colonies will more readily ſubmit to the government of one, than many. The forts in Carliſle-bay protected that harbour ſo effectually, and ſo formidable a body of men aſſembled on the ſhore, that although Sir George had on board two thouſand land forces, he could not effect his landing; but his ſquadron was kept beating about the iſland till December, when he anchored in Speight's bay; where (perceiving that his force was actually too ſmall to reduce the iſland) he waited till the arrival of the Virginia merchant fleet, on board of which was a regiment of ſeven hundred men, and about one hundred and fifty Scotch tranſports: reſolving to avail himſelf of this reinforcement, he immediately

mediately made diſpoſitions for landing all his men. The landing was effected, and Aſcue's forces gained the fort at Speight's-bay with four pieces of cannon; but they ſuſtained great loſs in the attack. Lord Willoughby kept the field; and though there was not any great probability of his effectually ſerving the cauſe he eſpouſed, yet Aſcue could make no impreſſion upon his troops. At length Sir George Aſcue offered to the inhabitants terms of peace that were mild and moderate. The planters, wearied out by the fatigue of the war, diſtreſſed too by the ruin of their eſtates, whoſe cultivation they were not allowed to attend to, and allured by the proſpect of peace, liſtened to the terms that were offered. A negotiation enſued. Many of the moſt conſiderable men of the iſland immediately declared for a peace. Lord Willoughby, thus apprized of the ſentiments

of

of his friends, was obliged to agree to a ceſſation of arms. Each party appointed four commiſſioners, who, upon the 17th of January, agreed on articles of peace, alike comprehenſive and honourable: both parties were ſecured in their freedom and property; as was lord Willoughby alſo, though he was obnoxious in the laſt degree to the governing party in England. This moderation was of infinite ſervice to Barbados; nor was the pacification followed by any acrimonious meaſures againſt the loyaliſts. Lord Willoughby immediately embarked for Europe; and we hear no more of him till after the Reſtoration.

Mr. Searl was now appointed governor of Barbados, and continued ſo until the death of Cromwell; when the Committee of Safety (as it was called) aſſumed the direction of national affairs,

and

and gave the government of that iſland to colonel Modiford; in whoſe time the aſſembly's continuance, was limited to one year.

About this time the act of navigation took place in England; this, with the duties ſoon afterwards laid upon the manufactures of this country, reduced much its wealth. At this period too the population of Barbados began in ſome meaſure to decreaſe, by the conqueſt of Jamaica, and the cultivation of other iſlands in America. Juſt before this, Barbados was ſo well inhabited, that in the expedition under Penn and Venables againſt Hiſpaniola, the Barbadians alone furniſhed three thouſand five hundred ſoldiers; little fore-ſeeing, that the caſual conqueſt of Jamaica would prove ſo prejudicial to them, as it afterwards did.

Charles

Charles II. being reſtored, and Hay Earl of Kinnnoul becoming heir to the Carliſle eſtate, the king propoſed to give him one thouſand pounds *per annum* for the ſurrender to the crown of the late earl of Carliſle's patent for the Carribbee iſlands. Kinnoul accepted the offer; and thus the proprietary government was diſſolved, and Barbados reverted to the crown.

The king, willing to reward lord Willoughby for his former conduct, confirmed to him the government of Barbados, by a new commiſſion, appointing him captain-general and governor in chief of this and the reſt of the Caribbee iſlands for ſeven years, with a ſalary of twelve hundred pounds *per annum*. In this commiſſion was inſerted a new clauſe, giving to the king a power to ap-

prove or diſallow of all laws that ſhould paſs in that iſland. But the advantages Barbados was to reap from the diſſolution of the proprietary government ſhe was like to pay dear for. The planters were now told, that his majeſty expected the legiſlature would grant him a proper conſideration for the benefits they were to enjoy under a royal government. It was urged too, that the earl of Carliſle had died much in debt; and that his debts, together with the thouſand pounds annuity granted to his heir, muſt be ſatiſfied out of his patent. The demand was accordingly made. The Barbadians, not unmindful of their intereſt, appointed agents in England to remonſtrate againſt this demand: but, alas! the agents were informed, that it was expected that Barbados would grant to the crown four and an half *per cent.* on the dead commodities of the produce of the iſland. The

agents

agents replied, that this would amount to a tax of ten *per cent.* of the clear profits of the planters eſtates, and that it was a burden the country could not bear. The meaſure, however, had been reſolved upon; and the king, as well as the dependents of his court, was ſo greatly intereſted in its ſucceſs, that lord Willoughby agreed to carry it into execution, by going over himſelf to Barbados. But his lordſhip not going immediately, this affair ſlept for a ſhort time; and the adminiſtration of affairs was left with Humphrey Walrond eſq.—This gentleman diſcharged his duty with great integrity and prudence: many uſeful and beneficial acts were paſſed by the legiſlature during his adminiſtration; the good effects of which are yet felt and acknowledged.

In 1663 Francis lord Willoughby arrived again at Barbados. He found the

inhabitants of all degrees extremely out of humour with the tax that had been propoſed. The royaliſts thought it an ungrateful return for their ſufferings, and the others oppoſed it of courſe. This oppoſition gave the governor great diſquiet. He called an aſſembly four months after his arrival; and though the ſpirit of the people ran high againſt the propoſed tax, yet the aſſembly were prevailed with to comply; confirming to themſelves, by this purchaſe, the great charter of Britiſh ſubjects; and eſtabliſhing a permanent right to their poſſeſſions, which is expreſsly provided for by this law. However, they hoped, and intended, that ſeveral public charges of the country ſhould likewiſe be defrayed by this tax: induced chiefly by this conſideration, they paſſed an act with the following preamble: "As nothing conduceth "more to the peace and proſperity of

"any

" any place, and the protection of every " ſingle perſon therein, than that the " public revenue thereof may be in ſome " meaſure proportioned to the public " charges and expences; and alſo well " weighing the great charges that there " muſt be, of neceſſity, in maintaining " the honour and dignity of his majeſty's " authority here, the public meeting of " the ſeſſions, the often attendance of " the council, the reparation of the forts, " the building a ſeſſions-houſe and a pri- " ſon, and all other charges incumbent " on the government; we do, in conſide- " ration thereof, give and grant unto his " majeſty, his heirs and ſucceſſors for " ever, that is to ſay, upon all dead com- " modities of the growth of this iſland, " that ſhall be ſhipped off the ſame," &c. &c. From hence it appears, that this tax (of the annual value of more than

twenty thouſand pounds to the crown) was granted and intended to be applied to the payment of all public charges for the ſupport of the government of this iſland. If then the public charges and expences, ſet forth in the above preamble, have been anſwered by this impoſt, then the Barbadians have no reaſon to complain: but if, on the contrary, theſe articles have not been complied with, ſurely the intent of this act hath not been anſwered, and the inhabitants have reaſon to be diſpleaſed with it; and it may be obſerved too, that this iſland was not originally acquired either by conqueſt or purchaſe; it is not therefore to be wondered at, that the inhabitants ſhould think it in their power to apply the uſes of any money to be raiſed, in ſuch manner as they ſhould judge proper. So ardent an oppoſition was made to the paſſing of this act, that lord Willoughby was apprehenſive of a general

general revolt. He ordered Mr. Farmer, a man of conſequence in the oppoſition, to be arreſted, and ſent over priſoner to England, with a charge againſt him of mutiny, ſedition, and treaſon: when Farmer arrived in England, he was brought before the king and council, where he pleaded with a freedom which the temper of that court could not bear, and which lord Clarendon called inſolent, and deſerving impriſonment. Farmer urged the rights of an Engliſhman; and that he had done nothing, but in a loyal, conſtitutional manner. His plea became his demerit, and he was ſent to priſon chiefly through the influence of Clarendon: nor did he recover his liberty till after a long tedious confinement. The frailties of mankind are viſible in the wiſeſt men: able as lord Clarendon was, his conduct towards Farmer muſt be acknowledged very ſevere. Thus was Mr, Farmer rewarded

for his patriotiſm. From whence we may inforce this obſervation, that men are to take their lots in governments as in climates, to fence againſt the inconveniencies of both, and to bear what they cannot alter: for vain indeed will it be, to look for perfect governments in a world governed by ſuch imperfect creatures as men.

The attention of the Barbadians was now called to the defence of their iſland. De Ruyter, the Dutch admiral, appeared off Barbados in 1664, with a deſign to make a deſcent upon that iſland, and did actually attack ſome of the forts in Carliſle bay; but he was ſo warmly received, and the Barbadians having drawn out their militia, made ſo good an appearance on the beach, that the Dutch ſquadron ſoon retired.

Two

Two years afterwards lord Willoughby undertook an expedition againſt the Dutch ſettlements to the ſouthward: he appointed Henry Willoughby and Henry Hawley, eſqrs. to be deputy-governors in his abſence.—His lordſhip during this expedition periſhed by ſhipwreck. The new governors during their adminiſtration executed a very uſeful deſign. Their intentions were to reduce and aſcertain the laws of the iſland, which ſtood much in need of a proper arrangement [e]. An act accordingly paſſed, which appointed commiſſioners to collect and amend what laws were in force; and theſe having received the royal aſſent, continue among the ſtanding laws of the iſland to this day.

[e] The laws of Barbados are now become ſo voluminous, that a proper reduction and arrangement of them would be very uſeful to that iſland.

The

The death of Francis lord Willoughby being known in England, the king appointed his brother William lord Willoughby to ſucceed him in the government of Barbados. This governor brought with him from England a regiment of ſoldiers under the command of Sir Tobias Bridge; but we do not find how they were deſtined, or what uſe they were of to the country. In this adminiſtration many regulations were made in regard to the law courts of the iſland, and its internal police; an uſeful act paſſed alſo, declaring negro ſlaves to be real eſtate.

William lord Willoughby died in 1674, and his place as governor was the ſame year ſupplied from England by Sir Jonathan Atkins. Thus ended the government of theſe two lords.

Not-

Notwithſtanding the juſt complaint againſt the duty of four and an half *per cent.* and the harſh proceedings againſt Farmer, it muſt be confeſſed, that the adminiſtrations of thoſe two lords were prudent, and well calculated for the proſperity of a young colony. After the Reſtoration, the humour of preferring Jamaica to our other iſlands, which had been adopted during the Uſurpation, ſubſided: and Barbados, latterly, recovered its ſtrength ſo greatly under its laſt governor, that when Sir Jonathan Atkins arrived, the inhabitants were reckoned to be fifty thouſand white men, and ſeventy thouſand blacks or ſlaves; a number ſcarcely credible to be ſupported in ſo ſmall an iſland. But a dreadful hurricane in Auguſt 1675 changed much the face of the country: to heighten this calamity

calamity too, New England was not in a condition at this time to ſend hither the uſual ſupplies of proviſions and timber; thus the crop of ſugar being deſtroyed, added to the rapaciouſneſs of creditors, many families were obliged to retire to other countries. The legiſlature, among many uſeful plans for the relief of their iſland, agreed to preſent an addreſs to the government of Great Britain, praying that they may be relieved from the duty of four and an half *per cent.* as the only means of preſerving their country from ruin: but this indulgence was denied them, and their petition failed of ſucceſs. It was in vain for the Barbadians to remonſtrate upon their hardſhips, and to complain that none of the public-ſpirited purpoſes, for which that great tax had been granted, had ever been anſwered. Thus Barbados ſhared not the

ſate of an elder child, the firſt offspring of her mother country, but was left to recover her loſſes as ſhe could.

We find by the ſtatutes of this iſland, that about this time ſome Quakers were very buſy in their endeavours to convert the negro ſlaves: their principles of non-reſiſtance were far from being agreeable to a colony, which, like that of Barbados, was every hour expoſed to invaſion; and therefore an act paſſed to prohibit negroes from frequenting meeting-houſes: and the ſame act contained a clauſe againſt Diſſenters, to prevent their teaching pupils, and keeping ſchools upon the iſland. This was a precaution perhaps not impolitic in a colony, where labour was of more utility than learning.

Sir Jonathan Atkins being recalled was ſucceeded in April 1680 by Richard Dutton,

Dutton, esq. in whose commission the members[f] of his majesty's council were

[f] The members of council were:

Henry Walrond,
John Reide,
Timothy Thornhill,
John Gibbes,
Francis Bond,
John Farmer,
George Lillington,
} Esqrs.

George Andrews,
William Sharpe,
Tobias Frere,
} Esqrs.
Michael Terril,
The Reverend Mr.
William Walker.

The members of the assembly about this period were:

S. Mich. Parish	George Peers, William Wheeler,	Esqrs.
Christ Church	Thomas Maxwell, Daniel Hooper,	Esqrs.
S. Philip's	William Fortescue, Henry Markland,	Esqrs.
S. John's	John Leslie, James Colleton,	Esqrs.
S. George's	Richard Salter, Miles Toppin,	Esqrs.
S. Joseph's	John Holder, Henry Gollop,	Esqrs.
S. Andrew's	William Dottin, Richard Walter,	Esqrs.
S. Thomas's	Jonathan Downes, Thomas Sadlier,	Esqrs.
S. James's	Abel Alleyne, William Holder,	Esqrs.
S. Peter's	Samuel Maynard, Robert Harrison,	Esqrs.
S. Lucy's	Thomas Merrick, John Gibbes,	Esqrs.

first

firſt inſerted : a practice, we apprehend, that hath been continued ſince. The governor immediately iſſued writs to elect an aſſembly. This gentleman was received with great kindneſs and reſpect by the inhabitants; for which he made a very ungenerous return. He was tyrannical and oppreſſive; and his deſpotiſm was ſo great, that many families, unable to endure his tyrannic ſway, quitted their country: this induced the legiſlature to paſs an act for regulating the manner of giving tickets out of the ſecretary's office. In 1684 an act paſſed to appoint a treaſurer of the iſland; and this office was conferred upon Mr. Salter. At this time too the militia was regulated and ſettled by the law. The rebellion in the weſt of England breaking out about this time, the legiſlature paſſed a ſevere act againſt thoſe rebels that were ſent to Barbados, whereby their condition was

ren-

rendered almoſt equal to a ſtate of ſlavery.

About this period a complaint was lodged in England againſt Henry Walrond, eſq. a member of council, for a petty charge againſt him, on account of a trial before a court of oyer and terminer, in which Walrond preſided as chief juſtice. After a full trial at an aſſize in England, he was only fined thirty pounds; but his detention there, and the expences of his ſuit (his adverſary being vigorouſly ſupported by the governor) hurt much his fortune. At his return to Barbados, the council and aſſembly preſented to him five hundred pounds, as an acknowledgement of his former ſervices to his country; and added a declaration of his juſt proceedings at the court of oyer.

In

In 1685 an additional duty was laid upon ſugar; a burden upon the planters which conſiderably reduced the value of their plantations. It could not fail to fill the world with aſtoniſhment, to obſerve that the colonies, which brought ſuch wealth to the mother country, nurſing her ſailors, and increaſing her manufacturers, ſhould be ſingled out as the hunted ſtag, and their inhabitants overloaded with taxes. The Barbadians repreſented their grievances to the government of Great Britain. They ſaid, that if a tax muſt be laid upon trade, it might be laid upon all commodities alike; that a ſmall advance upon all the cuſtoms would ſerve every purpoſe, as well as a great one upon ſome; and that this could be borne with more eaſe, there being a larger number to partake of it. All their remonſtrances availed them not any thing. Governor Dutton en-

couraged every motion to diſtreſs the planters; and was ſo zealous a friend to the Royal African Company (which had much hurt Barbados), that when he went to England he appointed Edwin Stede his deputy-governor, who was only an agent to the African Company, and ſecretary to the governor. Stede had however the addreſs to eſtabliſh a precedent, which has ever ſince been adopted: he prevailed with the legiſlature to preſent him with one thouſand pounds; from whence it became cuſtomary to make preſents to the governors, who before this had only their Engliſh ſalary. About this time was a conſpiracy of the negroes; which however was ſoon diſcovered and ſtopt: this occaſioned many uſeful acts to be paſſed for the government of negroes.

Soon

Soon after the Revolution, king William appointed James Kendal, eſq. governor of Barbados, who, ſoon after his arrival there, tranſmitted to England very ſatisfactory accounts of the loyalty and good diſpoſition of this colony: ſo that the Revolution was productive of no change in Barbados; but all its inhabitants chearfully and willingly acknowledged king William: they loved monarchy, conſcious that it was an eſſential part of the excellent conſtitution of their mother country; but they knew too, that the preſervation of that conſtitution, and the happineſs of that country, required that a Proteſtant king ſhould wear the crown.

During this adminiſtration the inhabitants of St. Chriſtopher, and the other Leeward iſlands, being much diſtreſſed

by the French, applied to Barbados for aſſiſtance: the Barbadians readily complied with their requeſt; and Timothy Thornhill, eſq. having offered his ſervice, received a commiſſion from the legiſlature to raiſe a regiment: this regiment amounted to ſeven hundred men, who were all cloathed, armed, and embarked in tranſport ſhips for St. Chriſtophers at the expence of this colony: this expedition took place in Auguſt 1689: the Barbadians alſo raiſed two regiments more of five hundred men each to aſſiſt the expedition againſt Martinique, and which joined the troops from England under the command of Colonel Foulks[g]: according to the beſt accounts, this invaſion was miſerably miſmanaged; what little effectual ſervice was performed, the troops of Barbados and the Leeward iſlands

[g] For the particulars of theſe expeditions, ſee the Britiſh Empire in America, vol. ii.

claimed

claimed the merit of. The 24th of January 1693, governor Kendal received information that nine French ſhips of war were plying to the north eaſt of the iſland: he immediately, with the advice of the council, ordered two merchant ſhips to be taken into their majeſty's ſervice, and fitted as men of war; theſe joined their majeſty's ſhips the Norwich, the Mary, the Antelope, the Mordaunt, the Diamond, and two ſloops, which were then in Carliſle-bay under the command of captain Wren: this fleet ſailed the 30th of January, and returned the 5th of February, not having ſeen the enemy; however they ſailed again in a few days, in ſearch of the French ſquadron, with whom they engaged the 17th of February to leeward of Martinique. Both ſquadrons claimed the victory, and Captain Wren returned with all his ſhips to Carliſle-bay. At this time the

freight of ſugar ran ſo high, and maſters of ſhips were ſo exorbitant in their demands, that the legiſlative power was obliged to interfere, and by an act of the iſland regulate the freight of its commodities. This act was afterwards repealed.

In 1694 Mr. Kendal was recalled, and the honourable Francis Ruſſel was appointed governor of Barbados, where he arrived with his family the ſame year. The council and aſſembly preſented their new governor with two thouſand pounds, and the following year gave him two thouſand more. Theſe expences cauſed great murmurings among the people, who became alarmed at ſuch miſchievous precedents. In truth, the governors became now to be a ſort of grievance by theſe exactions of money, which they appeared to look for

as

as their right; forgetting that ſuch gifts flow only from the benevolence of the inhabitants. The governor, council and aſſembly now tranſmitted a very loyal addreſs of condolance to his majeſty king William on the death of his royal conſort queen Mary, which was preſented by Willoughby Chamberlyne, eſq. and graciouſly received.

In 1696 governor Ruſſel died; and Francis Bond, eſq. the ſenior member of the council, became preſident and commander in chief. This gentleman's adminiſtration was productive of many wiſe meaſures for the benefit of his country. Many uſeful laws were paſſed, which remain yet in force. The inhabitants were eaſy, and perfectly ſatisfied with their preſident: and, in truth, we ſhall always find, that a man who both has an intereſt in a country, and is a native

thereof, will be more concerned for the good government of it, and more attentive to its proſperity, than one who conſiders it as a temporary dwelling, whither he has procured himſelf to be ſent to raiſe a fortune, or to patch up one going to decay.

In 1698 his majeſty was pleaſed to appoint the honourable Ralph Grey (afterwards lord Grey) governor of Barbados, where he arrived the 26th of July. An act ſoon paſſed, preſenting Mr. Grey with two thouſand pounds, and five hundred pounds for the rent of an houſe; Fontabelle houſe (the governor's reſidence) being much out of repair. Governor Grey's adminiſtration was very popular. The Barbadians, naturally hoſpitable and generous, love a governor poſſeſſed of theſe qualities. Mr. Grey was generous and magnificent, which endeared him to

Barbados;

Barbados; a diſintereſted diſpoſition, and a particular attention to the welfare of that iſland, marked him a man of worth, who did not wiſh, through avaricious views, to diſtreſs the country he was ſent to protect. His health declining, he was obliged to leave his governmenr in 1701, when the command devolved upon [h] John Farmer, eſq. the ſenior member of council; in whoſe time happened the death of king William, and the acceſſion of queen Anne. Events which were notified in form.

In 1703 Sir Bevill Granville arrived at Barbados governor thereof: a new houſe was immediately built for Sir Bevill upon a ſpot called Pilgrim-hill, which continues to this day to be the governor's houſe: the aſſembly, ſoon after the

[h] Son of Mr. Farmer, who was ſent to England by lord Willoughby.

governor's

governor's arrival, was ſo complaiſant, as to appoint his brother one of their agents in England; a conduct courtly indeed, but not very politic; for the governor's brother was wholly unacquainted with that iſland, and its concerns: and an agent ought to be a man well verſed in the conſtitution of the country he ſerves, and who perfectly underſtands her true intereſt: attentive only to his agency, he ſhould watch for occaſions to be beneficial to the country, with whoſe welfare he is entruſted: eſtabliſhing an intereſt with the board of trade, he ſhould never be ignorant of what is doing at that office: well acquainted with buſineſs, he ſhould endeavour to connect himſelf with, and have a perfect knowledge of, the forms, rules, and methods of the different offices he muſt tranſact buſineſs with. It is much to be wiſhed too, for the benefit of Barbados, that the agent could always

always be a member of the Britiſh parliament, as his conſequence would then be much enlarged, and he would probably claim a more reſpectful attention from the miniſtry.

The frequent preſents to governors having cauſed much uneaſineſs to the inhabitants, and having truly been found to be diſtreſsful to the iſland, her majeſty was pleaſed to augment the governor's Engliſh ſalary from twelve hundred to two thouſand pounds *per annum*. During Sir Bevill Granvill's adminiſtration Barbados was miſerably diſtreſſed by factions. Party raged high. Complaints were ſent to England againſt the governor by thoſe in the oppoſition. Remonſtrances followed from his friends; but we do not find, however, that any regard was paid to either. In the year 1705 the aſſembly, taking into conſideration the great

great want of caſh in the iſland, paſſed an act to allow ſixty-five thouſand pounds paper credit; impowering Mr. Holder the treaſurer (who was alſo ſpeaker of the aſſembly) to give out bills for that ſum. The men of greateſt property in the iſland oppoſed this ſcheme with great violence, but with little effect. This act was ſeverely cenſured in England, and repealed immediately. The governor, diſſatisfied with his ſituation, obtained his recall, and died upon his voyage home. In Sir Bevill's adminiſtration St. Ann's Caſtle was built in honor of her majeſty; which, from its ſituation, ſeems well calculated to annoy an enemy.

In 1707 Mitford Crow, eſq. arrived at Barbados, governor of the iſland. He, in obedience to his inſtructions, removed all thoſe gentlemen from the council, and from all other offices which they held under

under the crown, who were concerned in promoting the paper credit act. This ſpread ſo much diſcontent in the country, and rendered Mr. Crow's ſituation ſo irkſome, that it was ſoon thought proper to recall him alſo.

He was ſucceeded in 1711 by Robert Lowther, eſq. who was twice governor of Barbados. His firſt adminiſtration laſted till 1714, when he was recalled, and Mr. Sharpe, the ſenior member of the council, became preſident. In 1713 the legiſlature paſſed a very judicious act, by which was ſettled, the proportion of water, to be uſed by each Proprietor of the lands, through which a ſpring, called Three-houſes ſpring, ran; the head of this ſpring is deemed to ariſe in a public road in St. Philip's pariſh: thus was this bounty of Heaven impartially diſtributed, and not ſuffered to be monopolized by any parti-

cular

cular perſon. In 1715 his majeſty was pleaſed to appoint Mr. Lowther again to this government. Both periods of his adminiſtration were very unpopular, diſpleaſing to himſelf, and diſagreeable to the inhabitants. Parties were early formed againſt him, which always galled him during his nine years reſidence upon the iſland; yet he both times gained a handſome ſettlement. During his firſt adminiſtration he ſuſpended three members of council, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Berisford. The queen took off their ſuſpenſion. They were nevertheleſs withheld for ſome ſhort time from ſetting in council [i], which conſequently ſtopt the courſe of buſineſs, and was thereby of the utmoſt prejudice to the country.

[i] In the Caribbeana, publiſhed in 1741, is a very ſenſible opinion of Mr. Codrington, relative to this ſuſpenſion.

How-

However, the three members at length re-aſſumed their ſeats, and nothing more was heard of this matter. During his ſecond admiſtration many complaints from time to time were exhibited againſt him; particularly for his perſecution of the reverend Mr. Gordon, rector of St. Michael's pariſh, and the biſhop's commiſſary; againſt whom ſome harſh proceedings having paſſed, Gordon appealed to the crown. He obtained from the lords juſtices (his majeſty being then at Hanover) an order to take depoſitions at Barbados; and the governor (who was the accuſer) had the ſame privilege. Gordon returned to Barbados, and ſerved this order upon the governor, who paid ſo little regard to it, that he committed Gordon priſoner to the common gaol. At the court of oyer, where Gordon was tried, the governor preſided. This ſtep, though very unuſual,

is

is nevertheleſs agreeable to law. Such were the meaſures of this court, that the governor even proſecuted the council and attorney who appeared in behalf of Gordon: the former went to England, and preſented theſe proceedings with proper complaints againſt the governor; which had ſo good an effect, that the lords juſtices (in the king's abſence) ſent to Barbados an order conceived in the ſtrongeſt terms againſt the governor, ordering that the proceedings at that court in this affair, ſhould all be vacated. In conſequence of this and other complaints Mr. Lowther was recalled. He left the iſland in May 1720; but before his departure he ſuſpended Samuel Cox, eſq. the eldeſt member of the council; and John Frere, eſq. the next member of council, became preſident. Soon after this, Sir Charles Cox petitioned the king againſt

againſt governor Lowther, for having removed his brother from the council in an illegal and arbitrary manner; and his majeſty was pleaſed to ſend an order to Mr. Frere to reſign the command to Mr. Cox: but by ſome means or other this order was not complied with; and Sir Charles Cox enforcing his complaints, Mr. Frere was ſummoned to appear before the king and council of Great Britain: he accordingly in 1721 reſigned the government to Mr. Cox, much againſt the inclinations of the inhabitants of Barbados. He immediately went to England, where he was given to underſtand, that his being ſent for was to place him out of Cox's way, and to break the violence of party.

Mr. Cox acceded to the government of Barbados at a time when party raged high againſt him. The tranquillity act

had paſſed; the deſign of which was to keep all officers, &c, in their places in ſpite of the preſident's power [k]: and all the chief offices of the iſland were filled with Cox's enemies; ſo that, when he took poſſeſſion of the command, he was ſo hampered by the oppoſition, that he thought himſelf obliged to have recourſe to a very extraordinary ſtep: he ſuſpended five members of council at one time, and ſwore in five others in their places. The ſuſpended members were immediately reſtored by the crown: a circumſtance of ſuch triumph to that party, that they exulted more than ever, and perplexed the affairs of government ſo much, that even the exciſe bill, which was abſolutely neceſſary for the ſupport of the public, was in danger of being loſt. It muſt be owned too, that Mr. Cox did not be-

[k] This act was repealed.

have

have with requiſite moderation: he removed from the bench of juſtices ſeveral gentlemen of fortune, particularly Guy Ball, eſq. a member of the council, and had endeavoured to commence vexatious proſecutions againſt them: he attempted to proſecute Judge Sutton, who he charged with having written to him, with ill manners, and diſreſpect; but the king's Attorney General Richard Carter eſq. refuſed to enter a proſecution, declaring the charge was not ſufficient to ground an indictment, or information upon; and adding, that, by the law of all civilized nations, if even a Prince does require ſomething to be done, which the perſon who is to do it takes to be unlawful, it is not only lawful, but his duty, *reſcribere principi*; and ſhould he carry on a proſecution by indictment or information, againſt the king's ſubjects, which may hereafter come to be adjudged unlawful

in a proper place, and for which he may be put to anſwer, it would not be ſufficient juſtification for him to ſay, he had the Preſident's order grounded upon the opinions of five members of the council [1]. In conſequence of the abuſe Mr. Cox made of his power, in all ſubſequent inſtructions from the crown the authority of preſidents was much limited, and their power reduced to what it is at preſent. It is aſtoniſhing, that in ſo ſmall a ſpot, party-rage ſhould grow to ſuch an exceſs: never was any country more torn to pieces by parties, than Barbados was about this period: but, alas! we find faction and its ill conſequences prevailing in almoſt all countries; and in theſe little communities, where not any gain is acquired, vanity operates, as venality does in great ſtates.

[1] See Mr. Carter's Memorial in Vol. I. of the Caribbeana.

His

His majeſty, willing to relieve the diſtreſſes of Barbados, in 1722 appointed Henry Worſley, eſq. governor of that iſland, and gave him inſtructions and power to enquire into the conduct of preſident Cox, and to decide thereon as he ſhould judge moſt proper. Governor Worſley, when he arrived at Barbados, conducted himſelf with ſo much policy, that neither party thought him their enemy; and therefore both parties courted him for their friend, and both were equally flattered by the governor. Each ſide made him large offers; and thus was the aſſembly brought to give him the enormous revenue of ſix thouſand pounds *per annum*. The governor, having gained this great point, and the heavy tax of two ſhillings and ſix-pence being laid upon each negro for defraying this ſa-

lary, he proceeded to enquire into the ſtate of the iſland before his acceſſion. He ſummoned Mr. Cox to a formal trial; and he determined, that Mr. Cox had acted, during his preſidentſhip, corruptly, arbitrarily, and illegally; and therefore he not only removed him from being of his majeſty's council, but alſo declared him incapable of ever being a member of that board [m].

This adminiſtration was marked by the death of his majeſty king George I. The Barbadians had very ſeverely felt their diſtreſs, occaſioned by the burdenſome ſalary given to the governor, which, in truth, had much oppreſſed that whole iſland: they therefore ſeized the opportunity of the king's death, as a plea to ſave their money, by refuſing to pay the tax of two ſhillings and ſix-pence laid

[m] Mr. Cox paſſed the remainder of his life upon the continent oi N. America.

upon

upon negroes; aſſerting, that by the king's death the governor's commiſſion ceaſed, and conſequently the law which provided for the maintenance of the governor became void. But this fallacy did not ſucceed, though it cauſed much diſorder in the country. Mr. Worſley preſented a memorial to the throne, in conſequence of which his majeſty was pleaſed to direct (agreeable to the opinion of his attorney and ſolicitor general) "that in "caſe the arrears of the ſaid tax was "not paid on or before the 1ſt day of "July next, that his majeſty's attorney "general of Barbados do cauſe proper "law-ſuits to be commenced againſt all "perſons liable to pay ſuch arrears, &c." and theſe arrears were accordingly recovered. About this period, the duke of Portland, who had been appointed governor of Jamaica, landed at Barbados with his dutcheſs and a ſplendid retinue;

and theſe noble viſitants departed from thence, highly pleaſed with the elegance, politeneſs, and hoſpitality of the Barbadians.

Mr. Worſley left the government of Barbados in 1731, and Samuel Berwick, eſq. preſident of the council, ſucceeded him. Mr. Berwick (as ſeveral of his predeceſſors had done) executed his commiſſion without any ſalary or preſent from the aſſembly, during the ſhort time he preſided.

He died the year following, and James Dottin eſq. the next member of council, became commander in chief. The legiſlature, by an act of the iſland, ſettled four hundred pounds *per annum* upon Mr. Dottin; a proof at what an eaſy expence the buſineſs of this government was then carried on.

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In 1733 lord viſcount Howe was appointed governor of Barbados: he arrived in that iſland the ſame year. The legiſlature ſettled four thouſand pounds upon his lordſhip: a large ſum indeed for the circumſtances of the iſland at that time! but which, however, the governor generouſly expended in the iſland. The univerſal good character of this nobleman filled every heart with joy upon his arrival: his lordſhip did not diſappoint the hopes and expectations of Barbados. By a generoſity of temper, and a complacency of deportment; by an equitable diſtribution of juſtice, and a ſteady adherence to the conſtitution and true intereſt of the country he preſided over; he preſerved the iſland free from faction, and gained the affection and eſteem of all the inhabitants. So pacific a period affords lit-

tle

tle matter for hiſtory to tranſmit. The good agreement between the governor, council, and aſſembly, produced the beſt effects for the mother country, as well as for the colony; and ſurely never was there an experiment made with ſo much ſucceſs, of what importance the right choice of a governor is to the proſperity of this, or any other of our ſugar iſlands; yet it has been ſaid, that, if this nobleman had lived a few years longer, he would have ruined Barbados by the introduction of luxury: but alas! experience hath fully taught us, that if the inhabitants of that country poſſeſs the means of indulging luxurious diſſipation, the practice will be obtained in the mother country, if the times forbid the enjoyment of it in their native iſle: but (for a moment) ſuppoſe the charge to be, in ſome degree, true; was it not an honeſt policy in the governor, to divert in

pleaſures

pleaſures and amuſements that wealth which had formerly ſo often kindled the flames of party? Lord Howe died in March 1735; the council and aſſembly (applauded by all their countrymen) to teſtify their grateful remembrance of his lordſhip, as well as to diſtinguiſh merit, preſented two thouſand five hundred pounds to lady Howe.

Mr. Dottin ſucceeded again to the command, and received a ſettlement of ſix hundred pounds *per annum:* his adminiſtration was gentle and inoffenſive.

In 1739 the honourable Robert Byng was appointed governor of Barbados, where he arrived ſoon after his appointment. The times were unfavourable to Mr. Byng. He came to the government at a time when the houſe of repreſentatives ſeemed pertinaciouſly devoted, to the will of their ſpeaker Henry Peers, eſq.

a gentleman

a gentleman who had been diſappointed in his hope of procuring the government of Barbados for himſelf, and whoſe imaginary intereſt and real intention it was, to diſtreſs the new governor. "From men" (ſays the great Sully) "all "things may be expected: they are not "to be kept firm to their duty, inte- "grity, and the laws of ſociety, by fi- "delity and virtue, but by their hopes "and wiſhes." Mr. Byng was by the firſt addreſs of the aſſembly, as well as by private conferences, entertained with declamations of the poverty of Barbados, and the ſtedfaſt reſolutions of its repreſentatives concerning his appointment, "which, they ſaid, could not be equal to "his predeceſſors. The governor obſerved, "that the country was now in a more "flouriſhing condition than his prede- "ceſſor found it in; he was conſcious of "having brought with him as good in-

" tentions as the beſt of his predeceſſors ;
" but that if he was leſs conſidered than
" his immediate predeceſſor, he could
" not avoid thinking it was ſetting an
" ignominious mark upon him ; an in-
" dignity under which he could not ſit
" eaſy." But he could not obtain more than two thouſand pounds *per annum* ; yet, to render this more palatable, an additional preſent was added of two thouſand five hundred pounds to repair the governor's loſſes at ſea, the ſhip in which his baggage was, having been taken by the Spaniards. This was certainly an act of generoſity in the aſſembly ; but it did not heal the breach between the governor and ſpeaker, which was now notorious, and faction again reared its hydra-head with its uſual violence. [n] At length the ſpeaker was

[n] Henry Peers, eſq. ſpeaker of the aſſembly, was lieutenant general, maſter general of the ordnance,

ſtript

ſtript of all the poſts which he held under the crown. A circumſtance that

preſident of the council of war, colonel of a regiment of militia, and a juſtice of peace. He was ſucceeded as lieutenant general, maſter general of the ordnance, and preſident of the council of war, by Thomas Applewhaite, eſq. one of the members of his majeſty's council, and who had been major general and colonel of the Windward regiment: theſe two gentlemen were many years contemporaries. They both gained honour and reputation in their country; but with very different tempers, they attached themſelves early to oppoſite parties, and frequently eſpouſed contending intereſts: yet, ſtrange to ſay! they lived together in a cloſe intimacy. Mr. Peers had good ſenſe, and ſtrong natural abilities, and acquired a peculiar dexterity in the management of a party. His fondneſs of power plunged him deep in faction. He was every man's enemy that oppoſed his party, and was often ſerved through fear. His paſſions were impetuous and unmanageable. He was generous, lively, ſanguine, intrepid, ambitious. In friendſhip warm: in reſentment implacable. He claimed the title of a great man. By his death a powerful party loſt their friend

affords

affords a remarkable æra in this adminiſtration. Mr. Peers died ſoon after, and tranquillity was re-aſſuming its empire throughout the iſland, when death ſnatched from the world the governor himſelf. Mr. Byng's adminiſtration was ſhort and active. He lived only ten months in Barbados. His reſolution and activity; his laborious turn for buſineſs, and an indefatigable application which nothing could divert; his attention to the defence of the iſland he command-

and patron. Mr. Applewhaite poſſeſſed a ſound judgment, and an amiable diſpoſition, and was too candid and diſintereſted for the intrigues of faction. His moderation diſengaged him from the inconveniencies of party-zeal. He was every man's friend that needed his friendſhip, and men were attached to him by affection. His paſſions were under the command of his reaſon. He was compaſſionate, affable, ſincere, calm, reſolute. In friendſhip ſteady: in reſentment placable. All men, with an united voice, called him a good man. By his death the poor loſt their father and ſupport.

ed,

ed, by forming its militia, and repairing its fortifications; and his ſchemes for the extention of trade; joined to his prudent diſcernment, which produced the beſt commiſſion of the peace ever iſſued in that iſland, led many to regret the death of a governor, of whom they had entertained great expectations, notwithſtanding the early oppoſition he encountered °.

Soon after Mr. Byng's death, the aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to the follow-

° Mr. Byng's good ſenſe ſhewed itſelf very ſtrong in this remarkable inſtance. The aſſembly preſented an addreſs to him of the 8th of July 1740, which, from a previous knowledge, he thought was extremely ſevere and unkind towards him: he, nevertheleſs, with a gracious ſmile, received it, made no reply to it, but with great cordiality and apparent friendſhip, careſſed the aſſembly-men who preſented it, and all others that fell in his way; and actually did give a lucrative employment to one of them the next day.

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ing reſolves: 1. That as many diſadvantages and miſchiefs have been found to ariſe, by means of the ſettlements made by the general aſſembly on governors, this houſe is now abſolutely determined not to make any ſettlement whatever on any future governor: and that every member of this preſent aſſembly, while he continues in that truſt, will ſteadily and unalterably abide by this reſolution, notwithſtanding any plauſible reaſons, or pretences, that may be urged to induce him to alter the ſame. And this houſe eaneſtly recommends, and hopes all future aſſemblies will comply therewith. 2. That an humble addreſs be made to his moſt excellent majeſty, humbly beſeeching him to give directions, that ſuch a ſalary for the future governors may be aſſigned, and paid out of the duty of four and half *per cent.* ariſing on the produce of this iſland, as may be ſufficient for

their ſupport, and the dignity of this government; and moſt humbly to entreat his majeſty to diſcontinue the inſtruction permitting and allowing the aſſembly to make an additional ſettlement on any governor. And that an humble repreſentation be alſo made to the lords commiſſioners for trade and plantations, praying their lordſhips endeavours to promote, and get eſtabliſhed, what is implored of his majeſty.

In 1740 Mr. Dottin again became preſident, and continued ſo until the arrival of Sir Thomas Robinſon in 1742.

When Sir Thomas Robinſon arrived at Barbados, an unuſual ſhyneſs prevailed in the aſſembly towards their new governor. Though the preceding aſſembly had reſolved not to make any ſettlement whatever upon a future governor: nevertheleſs,

leſs, the then aſſembly granted to Sir Thomas three thouſand pounds *per annum*. The inimitable Sully, the ableſt politician, and (what is more to his honour) the moſt unprejudiced man that hiſtory furniſhes us with an account of, remarks, " that the " word Parliament carries with it an idea of " equity, and even wiſdom; yet in theſe " bodies we meet with ſuch inſtances of " irregularity, that one cannot help con- " cluding, that, if infallibility may be " hoped for among men, it will be found " rather in one than a multitude." To Sir Thomas Robinſon, Barbados is indebted for an excellent armoury, the beſt in the Weſt Indies, which he built at his own expence, and the utility of which that iſland hath experienced ever ſince; yet this armoury, and ſome alterations of Pilgrim-houſe, which were undertaken without the knowledge, and executed without the concurrence of the aſſembly,

raiſed many contentions and diſputes, between the governor and that body, which never ſubſided: and the aſſembly refuſed to pay for what they had not directed: the Governor was at length recalled.

Sir Thomas remained at Barbados until the arrival of his ſucceſſor the honourable Henry Grenville in 1747. The council and aſſembly ſettled three thouſand pounds *per annum* upon Mr. Grenville, whoſe adminiſtration was during the calm of peace, conſequently not very intereſting. In this adminiſtration the legal intereſt of money was reduced by law from eight to ſix *per cent.* a very uſeful meaſure for the country, becauſe, the annual produce of plantations having decreaſed, the people were leſs able to pay a large intereſt; and experience proved, that their eſtates were unequal to an eight *per cent.* intereſt: a circumſtance alone

that

that muſt always overbalance the advantages of credit, which high intereſt affords a country; for what advantage could a planter derive from a loan, if he had not a proſpect of repaying it? The Barbadians, taught by experience the miſchievous effects of party, united to render Mr. Grenville's ſituation agreeable to himſelf, which his addreſs rendered not diſpleaſing to them. Abroad, he maintained the honour of his royal maſter, particularly by the ſucceſsful effort he made to prevent the French from ſettling Tobago, then a neutral iſland. At home, unattached to any faction, he ſupported his commiſſion with a pompous ſtate; and though all confeſſed the haughtineſs of the man, they could not but admire the dignity of the governor. In governments, as well as in courts, all things are brought about by artifice. The governor had the ſucceſs, at the cloſe of his adminiſtra-

tion, to obtain thoſe public marks of approbation, which were never before laviſhed upon any governor; for ſo far did the then aſſembly proceed in their profeſſions of eſteem to this gentleman, that they voted a ſtatue of him (one member only diſſenting) to be erected in the town-hall, where the courts of juſtice are held, in honour to his memory, and to exemplify to poſterity a pattern of juſtice and integrity [p]. Mr. Grenville

[p] The only perſons intruſted by the governor with his ſecret wiſhes for a ſtatue were John Fairchild eſq. repreſentative for St. Michael's pariſh, and William Duke eſq. clerk of the aſſembly; theſe influenced the then aſſembly. John Lyte eſq. repreſentative for St. George's pariſh, and his friends, were thought to be not well affected to the governor: Ralph Weekes eſq. (who was to ſucceed to the command of the iſland) was therefore prevailed upon to reſign the judgeſhip of Oſtin's court, which was given to Lyte; thus was he and his party appeaſed: the compliment intended the governor was a picture; when this was mentioned in the houſe, a member moved for a ſtatue: the houſe conſented.

continued

continued governor of Barbados till May 1753, when he applied for, and obtained, leave to return to England.

Ralph Weekes, eſq. the ſenior member of the council, was then inveſted with the command. The aſſembly gave him twelve hundred pounds *per annum*, to ſupport the honour and dignity of the king's commiſſion: He was a good preſident, and preſerved the affairs of government in their uſual channel.

In Auguſt 1756 Charles Pinfold, eſq; governor of Barbados, arrived in that iſland. He obtained a ſettlement of three thouſand pounds *per annum*. A quiet, eaſy governor ſuits beſt a colony; ſuch was Mr. Pinfold, whoſe qualities, however, were of the negative kind. His adminiſtration was long and intereſting. His conſtant attention to

the buſineſs of the court of chancery was truly meritorious ; ſo regular was his attendance, and ſo aſſiduous was he to expedite the buſineſs of that court, that when he left the iſland, there was not one cauſe upon the chancery liſt ripe for hearing. During this period the Barbadians bore no inconſiderable ſhare in the glorious events which diſtinguiſhed the Britiſh arms during the laſt war. A reſolution having been formed in England to reduce the iſland of Martinique (the key of the Caribbees), the ſame was communicated to the governor of Barbados. The governor immediately called together the council and aſſembly, and having communicated this intelligence, a law paſſed for aſſiſting his majeſty's forces ; when the inhabitants, regardleſs of the injury their trade muſt receive, and which it afterwards did receive, by the acquiſition of the large and valuable

iſland

iſland of Martinique, gave their aſſiſtance with a zeal, unanimity, and ſpirit, ſcarcely to be paralleled. Five hundred and eighty-eight white men (volunteers) were expeditiouſly raiſed, cloathed, and paid by the country; to theſe were added five hundred and eighty-three negroes. They joined his majeſty's forces, and aſſiſted at the reduction of Martinique. This expedition coſt Barbados [q] twenty four thouſand pounds currency, beſides a large ſupply of proviſions, which the Barbadians ſent to the forces while they were beſieging the enemy. During this adminiſtration the ſtamp act paſſed the parliament of Great Britain. This act threatened a precedent big with fatal

[q] Ten thouſand pounds (ſterling) were repaid by the government. The difference of exchange between Great Britain and Barbados is thirty-five *per cent.*

miſchief;

miſchief; yet this colony ſubmitted to its validity, and truſting to the equity of the Britiſh legiſlature for its repeal, when its pernicious tendency ſhould be perceived, was content with remonſtrating againſt its oppreſſion. This act was ſoon repealed; but during the few months it was in force, the ſum of two thouſand five hundred pounds was collected at Barbados, and remitted to England. Governor Pinfold, having obtained leave to return to England, embarked on board the Britannia, capt. Davis, the 27th of May 1766.

Samuel Rous eſq. the ſenior member of council, then reſident upon the iſland, acceded to the command, and took the oaths of office immediately after the departure of the governor. The council and aſſembly ſettled fifteen hundred pounds *per annum* upon the preſident during

during his reſidence at Pilgrim-houſe; nor do we find that this gentleman hath proved himſelf unworthy of the generoſity of his countrymen. He hath ſupported his ſtation, with a ſplendor and magnificence, equal to the unuſual largeneſs of his ſalary, and hath acquitted himſelf in other reſpects to the ſatisfaction of his country, notwithſtanding he has been engaged in a point of ſome delicacy, with the preſent ſpeaker of the aſſembly. John Gay Alleyne, eſq. having been choſen ſpeaker of the houſe of repreſentatives, and approved of by the commander in chief, immediately claimed from the king's repreſentative the allowance of certain privileges, which he alledged the repreſentatives of the people were intitled to. Theſe privileges are:

Firſt, Exemption from arreſts to themſelves and ſervants.

Secondly,

Secondly, Liberty of ſpeech.

Thirdly, Acceſs at all times to the king's repreſentative.

To this demand the preſident ſaid, "He would give his anſwer at the next "ſitting of the aſſembly," cautiouſly taking time for conſideration and advice: and his anſwer being at length given, was[r], "I give and grant, as far as is con-"ſiſtent with the royal prerogative, "and the laws and conſtitution of this "iſland, every privilege and liberty "which hath been enjoyed by any for-

[r] In the firſt edition this anſwer was repreſented in other terms (though the meaning was not very different): this was owing to miſinformation; which, the diſtance of place, and the difficulty of gathering materials, will, it is hoped, excuſe.

"mer

" mer aſſembly, to be enjoyed by you, " as fully and freely as ever." The obſervations that ariſe from this anſwer are too obvious to be illuſtrated here : however, it is but juſtice to acknowledge, that it was the moſt ſenſible and judicious the preſident could have given : for if he had abſolutely and unreſervedly granted the demand, he might (and perhaps with juſtice too) have been cenſured by the government in England ; and indeed ſuch grant muſt have been confirmed by a higher power than the preſident's, before it could have had effect : on the other hand, had he rejected the demand entirely, the remaining ſhort period of his adminiſtration might have been imbittered by diſſentions and diſputes : but his reſerve was prudent ; he granted every privilege that had been enjoyed by any former aſſembly. What privilege or liberty had ever been granted or enjoyed by

by a former aſſembly? None. What then was granted to the preſent? Surely none. But with this anſwer the ſpeaker retired ſeemingly well content; and moſt likely he was really ſo; he had gained the much-wiſhed-for opportunity of haranguing, and of dazzling the eyes of the world, with a glare of patriotiſm [f].

[f] Here it may be neceſſary to obſerve, that the cuſtom of the ſpeaker's aſking for privileges is an act of his own, upon which he cannot be ſuppoſed to take any inſtructions from the houſe; for after the choice of a ſpeaker, the houſe by the rules of parliament can do no buſineſs until he has been approved; at other times indeed he delivers himſelf by command of the houſe: from hence the reaſon will appear, why, in treating of theſe privileges, the ſpeaker is conſidered as diſtinct from the houſe, and what is ſaid of him made applicable only to himſelf. See farther, Preface to Privileges of Jamaica, page 19.

In regard to the privileges thus demanded, it may be obſerved, that the exemption from arreſts was never claimed, conſequently never poſſeſſed, by any preceding aſſembly. If is meant an exemption from arreſts at all times, the precedent muſt have a fatal tendency to affect the credit of Barbados; nor would the injury be much leſs prejudicial, if confined to the day of the aſſembly's ſitting; for, under the protection of ſervants, may not the power be given to ſcreen from debt, and to find an opportunity to convey from off the iſland, a number of ſlaves? The police of Barbados is not altogether ſimilar to that of Great-Britain: but even if it was, how could the community in general, by any means, be benefited by their repreſentatives being exempt from arreſts?

In a ſiſter-colony, the council and aſſembly claim this privilege of exemption from arreſts to their perſons, ſervants, and equipages [t]: A repreſentative's coach-horſes were ſeized; the officers, who levied upon the horſes, were committed by the ſpeaker of the houſe. The priſoners applied to the governor (as chancellor) for an habeas corpus; the governor granted it, and they were releaſed; the aſſembly was ſoon after diſſolved. The new aſſembly re-committed the officers, as they conceived the court of chancery had no right to interfere; but the officers were again releaſed as before; and thus this matter continued unſettled, until a new aſſembly was choſen in the year 1765, which remained ſilent as to the officers, and made no attempt to

[t] Privileges of Jamaica, Preface, page 5 [a]; page 8 [b]; page 15.

commit

commit them a third time; but they addreſſed the governor to expunge the record of his determination: this was refuſed, and their diſputes were revived. Whether this governor did well or ill in the part he acted, is not for us to determine; poſſibly the moſt unexceptionable method of releaſing the priſoners would have been by a prorogation, or diſſolution of the aſſembly; but be this as it may, this circumſtance is mentioned to ſhew, how the creditor muſt have ſuffered in acquiring his legal demand, and how the officers muſt have ſuffered in executing the duties of their office, if ſome power had not interfered; a power which ought ſurely to be lodged ſomewhere, as a check upon the exorbitant uſe of this privilege, a uſe ('tis too true) that might always be made of it, in any country whatever. Now, if a creditor hath no other method of coming

at his legal debt, and the ſeizure of ſervants or equipage ſhould be his dernier reſort; would it not be an injury of the higheſt degree, to prevent the exerciſe of his claim? Or, can any benefit ariſe to a community in general, when a part of that community exempts the remainder from the ultimate acquiſition of its property? In a trading country, eſpecially, the ſhorteſt methods that can be procured, ſhould be allowed to creditors to acquire their juſt debts; and to deprive a ſubject of ſuch means, is equally an hardſhip to him, and an injury to the country he lives in. How eaſy might it be for a bad man to mortgage his eſtate for its value, make ſacred his perſon by privilege, and ruin his junior creditors: and how can it be ſaid that the courſe of juſtice will not be affected; when a man who ought legally to be a priſoner, and his goods and chattels forfeited to his creditors, ſhall be turned

looſe,

looſe, whenever an aſſembly is to meet, and for ſo long as they may ſet, attended with equipage and ſervants; and, of the latter, moſt likely, as many as he pleaſes to take; and which, no doubt, he may take that occaſion to convey where he pleaſes: and yet, all the time, he may be a freeholder, by lands intailed, or by right of marriage, or by the courteſy of England. However diſintereſted, however juſt, however worthy, the preſent repreſentatives of Barbados are, and theſe undoubtedly have too much juſtice to make an ill uſe of any power; yet the time may come, when this may not be the caſe; and when the pernicious tendency of this privilege will be perceived; and when it will be found ultimately to be hurtful to the ſubject. The only plauſible reaſon given in ſupport of this privilege, is ſecurity to the conſtituents of their repreſentatives ſervices: now,

we find that the Barbadians have never wanted as able and honeſt repreſentatives, as their country or any colony could afford, for near a century and a half; and they have never perceived, that they ever ſtood in need of a grant of privileges. A learned and ingenious member [u] (in whoſe abilities his country places great confidence, and from whoſe ſervices his fellow-ſubjects form great hopes and expectations) ſeems to have had an eye towards the inconveniencies attending upon the exorbitant uſe of this privilege; when, at a meeting of the aſſembly of Barbados, on June 3, 1767, he moved, "that it "ſhould be declared, to be the ſenſe of "the houſe, that the exemption from ar-"reſts, and other diſturbances of their "perſons and ſervants, was not intended "by them to be conſtrued, farther than

[u] Henry Beckles eſq.

"was

" was neceſſary to ſecure the perſonal " attendance of each member on the " houſe; and in no wiſe to interrupt the " courſe of juſtice, which might affect " them upon other occaſions." This motion was unanimouſly approved.

As to the exerciſe of this privilege, as a ſecurity againſt arbitrary power, far be it from us to object to ſo uſeful a precaution; and could thus much of this privilege be obtained, unclogged with other circumſtances, it undoubtedly would have its advantages. Every branch of legiſlature ſhould be prevented from interfering with, or acquiring an undue influence over, each other: but care ſhould be taken, that along with the corn, tares do not grow alſo. To the commons of England, there was a neceſſity for the exertion of this privilege, to protect them from the violence of former arbitrary

reigns: but ſicce the Revolution, that happy æra, when liberty was ſecured by law, this neceſſity wears not ſo preſſing an appearance; much leſs, when the royal power is delegated (and controuled by inſtructions) to a governor of a colony [x].

[x] So neceſſary was this privilege formerly, and yet ſo little ſtand could it make againſt violence, that in Henry the Eighth's reign, when the commons made a difficulty of granting the required ſupply, he ſent for Montague, one of the members, who had a conſiderable influence on the houſe, and ſaid to him, "Ho! man! will they not ſuffer "my bill to paſs?" and laying his hand upon Montague's head, added, "Get my bill paſſed "by to-morrow, or elſe to-morrow this head of "yours ſhall be off". The next day the bill was paſſed. See Hume's Hiſtory of England.—But will any man ſay, that the times now are not widely different? thank God, they are; and 'tis every man's buſineſs to enjoy the bleſſing without repining, or graſping at more.

Much

Much more indeed might be ſaid upon this ſubject; but what however would with more propriety adorn the ſpeech of a legiſlator, than grace the pen of an hiſtorian; who has already exceeded the limits he preſcribed to himſelf. What has already been, or may farther be ſaid on this ſubject, is offered with all imaginable reſpect and deference, to the preſent honeſt and upright aſſembly of Barbados, who can have no intereſt divided from that of their country. The privilege of ſpeech to the repreſentatives of a people is a conſtitutional privilege, inherent in that body: it is ſtrange then, that a gentleman of the ſpeaker's lively imagination ſhould appear not to know he poſſeſſed this valuable privilege, by making a demand of it. As to acceſs to the King's repreſentative, this privilege is in itſelf of ſo innocent and harmleſs a nature to the

public, that no more prejudice could ariſe from refuſing its admiſſion, than good could accrue by granting of it.

To conclude. Theſe ſallies of the ſpeaker's genius bring to our remembrance a ſaying of King James the Firſt, as related by lord Bacon: "When cardinal "Evereux (ſays Bacon) having in a ſub-"ject of divinity ſprinkled many orna-"ments of learning, the king ſaid, they "were like the blue, and yellow, and red "flowers in corn, which make a pleaſant "ſhew, but hurt the corn."

On the 1ſt of September 1767, at a meeting of the general aſſembly, a committee of that houſe was appointed to prepare a petition (in conjunction with a committee of the council) to be preſented to the commons houſe of parliament of Great Britain, repreſenting the diſtreſſes of the

the iſland by the two laſt dreadful fires in the chief town, the intention of the inhabitants to rebuild the town on a ſafer plan, and to make convenient wharfs, and cleanſe the Mole-head; and further repreſenting the great expence attending theſe works, and the inability of the country wholly to provide for them: and therefore praying the aſſiſtance of that honourable houſe on the occaſion. This is a repreſentation juſt and neceſſary, and this a conduct much to the honour of the legiſlature of Barbados: no doubt, the reception that this petition will gain from the commons of Great Britain, will reflect equal honour upon that reſpectable body. The cleanſing of the Mole-head, and erecting proper wharfs for the convenience of trade, are works of the utmoſt advantage, and therefore of the greateſt conſequence to this trading iſland; but whoſe utility will not be confined to this ſpot alone,

alone, but muſt ſpread its influence throughout all the Britiſh dominions. The Mole [y], when effectually cleaned, will again afford a ſafe retreat to ſhips of burden in the moſt tempeſtuous ſeaſon; whereas now it cannot protect the ſmalleſt veſſel: add to this, the alarming and increaſing inconvenience of landing and ſhipping all kinds of merchandize.

His majeſty having been gleaſed to appoint William Spry, eſq. governor of Barbados, that gentleman landed at Bridge-Town the 11th of February 1768; and was received with all the honours due to his ſtation. On the 18th the aſſembly attended the governor in council; when he made a ſpeech to both houſes: and on

[y] The Mole runs through the ſouth-eaſt part of Bridge-town, and falls into Carliſle-bay: and is now choaked up by ſand and mud brought into it by the tides.

the

the ſame day the houſe of repreſentatives reſolved to ſettle three thouſand pounds *per annum* upon the governor, and a bill to that effect paſſed the houſe; this bill paſſed the council alſo the 22d of March; when the ſpeaker, accompanied by the whole houſe, waited upon the governor in council; and, in delivering the bill to him for his aſſent, the ſpeaker addreſſed him in the following terms:

"May it pleaſe your excellency!

"By command of the houſe of aſ-
"ſembly, and with the voice of unani-
"mity and concord, I have the honour
"to preſent your excellency with a
"faithful earneſt of the general eſteem.
"By this bill a large additional provi-
"ſion, additional to that which is ap-
"pointed you by the crown, is here pre-
"ſented you by the people, the better
"to enable your excellency to ſupport

" the dignity of your ſtation, and give
" luſtre to your authority: a tribute not
" more free, than founded in the moſt
" laudable deſires, which, eſtabliſhing
" your excellency's ſtate in eaſe and inde-
" pendence, leaves you without a care, but
" for the public intereſt, and its honour.
" The time indeed has been, I ſhould
" have rather ſaid, the time has always
" been, when this tribute has been grant-
" ed in far happier circumſtances of our
" country; but at no time was ever one
" reſolved upon with a more perfect cor-
" diality, becauſe at no time ſuggeſted
" by a more diſintereſted principle than
" the preſent. From hence your excel-
" lency will naturally ſuppoſe, that the
" circumſtances of our country, ſuffer-
" ing under the preſſure of repeated ca-
" lamities, could not fail to make a part,
" a ſerious part, of our conſideration
" upon this intereſting ſubject: yet, in

" ſettling

" ſettling a proviſion neceſſary for your
" excellency's honour, and our own, the
" aſſembly ſoon found it in their hearts,
" to give you the fulleſt pledge of their
" affection, rather than, with ſo many
" engaging motives to that affection,
" ſeem deficient in their accuſtomed be-
" nevolence; determining to invite your
" excellency to partake with us in the
" reſources for our comfort, rather than,
" by a leſs generous proceeding, to in-
" volve you in a ſhare in our misfortunes.
" Such, Sir, was the agreeable reſult of
" our unbiaſſed deliberations; and may
" your excellency's enjoyment of the fruits
" of them, be as pure and laſting, as the
" motive of our conduct in the gift
" was liberal and honeſt. The bill in
" my hand is intitled, 'An Act to raiſe
" a ſum of money yearly to defray the
" expences of the government;' to which
" it is my duty to deſire your excellen-
" cy's

" cy's aſſent, and my hope, that it may " alſo meet with your entire approbation."

To this the governor gave the following anſwer:

" Mr. ſpeaker, and gentlemen!

" I return you my ſincere thanks for " your very affectionate addreſs. I have " the higheſt ſatisfaction in receiving " your early, and cordial aſſurances, of " concurring with me effectually in every " meaſure, that can tend to promote the " happineſs of this colony, as that will " ever be the principal object of my " wiſhes and labours. The generous at- " tention you have been pleaſed to pay to " my eaſe and welfare, demands the moſt " grateful returns, and cannot but per- " fectly anſwer the gracious intention of " his majeſty, by leaving me without a " care, but for his majeſty's honour, and " the proſperity of this iſland."

In

In July a bill paſſed to raiſe a ſum of money (upwards of two thouſand pounds) for the repairs of Pilgrim-houſe. The Barbadians promiſe themſelves much ſatisfaction under the government [z] of Mr. Spry; from whoſe good ſenſe, and amiable diſpoſition, they may reaſonably expect a juſt adminiſtration; when the eaſe of the ſubject, and the dignity of the crown will be equally preſerved; when the ſtream of government favour will flow through a clear and tranſparent channel; and when unanimity, ſo eſſential to the ſafety and happineſs of every com-

[z] The preſent members of his majeſty's council of Barbados are:

Sir John Gibbons, Bart. and K. B.

Samuel Rous, John Dottin, Edward Jordan, Henry Thornhill, Abr. Cumberbatch, Henry Frere,	Eſqrs.	Conrade Adams, Gedney Clarke, Francis Ford, Rob. Braithwaite, Irenæus Moe,	Eſqrs.

munity,

munity, will be promoted, and encouraged, under the auſpicious influence of a mild, and able governor.

The preſent members of the aſſembly of Barbados:

S. Mich. Pariſh	Samſon Wood, Patrick Lynch,	Eſqrs.
Chriſt Church	Thomas Ince, Henry Beckles,	Eſqrs.
S. Philip's	John Gittens, Thomas Drake,	Eſqrs.
S. George's	Samuel Sedgwick, Eyre Wallcot,	Eſqrs.
S. John's	Richard Downes, Benjamin Mallony,	Eſqrs.
S. Joſeph's	Henry Holder, Benjamin Mellowes,	Eſqrs.
S. Andrew's	John Gay Alleyne, James Maycock,	Eſqrs.
S. Thomas's	William Alleyne, George Sanders,	Eſqrs.
S. James's	John Ridgway. Thomas Alleyne,	Eſqrs.
S. Peter's	John Denny, Joſeph Leacock,	Eſqrs.
S. Lucy's	Hillary Rowe, Hillary Rowe junior,	Eſqrs.

Of its Conſtitution.

THE government of Barbados conſiſts of a governor, who is appointed by the king; a council of twelve men, who are alſo appointed by his majeſty, by letters of mandamus; and an aſſembly of twenty-two freeholders, choſen by a majority of freeholders, from the ſeveral pariſhes. Two repreſentatives are returned from each pariſh. The governor is the repreſentative of the crown; he is commander in chief, chancellor, ordinary, and vice admiral of the iſland. The members of council (as privy counſellors) adviſe and aſſiſt the governor, in all matters relative to the government; and are a curb upon him, if he exceeds the bounds of his commiſſion: they (as part of the legiſlature) form the upper houſe, and in paſſing all laws, act as the houſe of peers in Great Britain: the council

board is wiſely adapted as a balance in the legiſlative authority; it may always be a check upon an aſſembly, and a reſtraint upon a governor. The governor, and the members of council, conſtitute the courts of chancery and errors, where each member gives his opinion in all cauſes. The governor, as chancellor, grants adminiſtrations, and executorſhips of eſtates of perſons dying inteſtate, to whom he pleaſes: he alſo admits licentiates, and grants probates to wills; he hath power to appoint and diſplace all military officers, and to diſſolve the aſſembly, and alſo to place a negative upon all bills: judges of the courts, and juſtices of the peace cannot be appointed, but by and with the conſent of the council, whoſe approbation or concurrence muſt be obtained when a judge is removed from his office. No member of council can be removed by a governor, without the

conſent

conſent of the majority of the council, unleſs on ſome very extraordinary occaſion not fit to be divulged to the whole body. In ſuch a caſe, the reaſons for ſuch ſuſpenſion (or removal) are immediately to be tranſmitted to the king in council, where the member ſuſpended may make his defence. A member of council vacates his ſeat, by abſenting himſelf ſeven years from the council-board, without leave of abſence obtained from the king, or from the commander in chief of the iſland. If there are leſs than ſeven members of council reſident upon the iſland, the commander in chief hath power to fill up to that number, until his majeſty's pleaſure is known, that the buſineſs of the iſland may not be retarded[a].

[a] The members of council, while reſident in the iſland, by virtue of their commiſſion, are ſtiled Honourable, and precede Baronets. Cuſtom too has given the title of his Excellency to the governor.

governor always ſits in council, even when acts are paſſed; a practice that ſeems to have been eſtabliſhed by cuſtom only; for it appears to be unconſtitutional. It is not a cuſtom adopted by all the colonies. The governor, beſides his ſalary of two thouſand pounds ſterling, payable out of the four and half *per cent.* is intitled to a third of ſeizures; but he is reſtrained from receiving any preſent from the aſſembly, unleſs as a ſettlement made by the firſt aſſembly he meets after his arrival. This ſettlement has latterly been three thouſand pounds *per annum* currency. In the abſence of a governor, the ſenior member of council acts as commander in chief; but he cannot diſſolve an aſſembly: nor can he remove or ſuſpend any officer, civil or military, without the conſent of ſeven members of council. In other reſpects he has the ſame power as a governor.

The preſident is allowed one half of the ſalary and emoluments allotted to the governor. Five members of council make a quorum to tranſact buſineſs, and to conſtitute a court of chancery, and court of error. The commander in chief collates rectors to the pariſhes of the iſland, which are eleven. The rectors perquiſites are conſiderable; their income eſtabliſhed by law is one hundred and fifty pounds *per annum*, excluſive of all preſents, and other benefits. The clergy are all of the church of England. The repreſentatives of the people are choſen annually, by virtue of a writ (or commiſſion) iſſued by the governor in council, directed to the eldeſt member of council in each pariſh, authorizing him to convene the freeholders, and to receive their votes: afterwards, a return of the writ, with a certificate of the choice of the freeholders, is made to the governor in council,

when the repreſentatives take the ſtate oaths, and oaths of office, before the governor and council; which they alſo do upon the acceſſion of a new governor or preſident. The aſſembly chuſe their ſpeaker, who cannot act as ſuch before he is preſented to, and approved by the commander in chief. The ſpeaker and eleven other members conſtitute a houſe for tranſacting of buſineſs. They chuſe a clerk and marſhal of their houſe. They may expel any of their members, and may give leave to two of them together to go off the iſland for ſix months for recovery of health. They have power to try and determine all controverted elections, and can adjourn themſelves from day to day; all longer adjournments are made by the commander in chief, or with his leave. They, together with the governor and council, annually nominate the agent, the treaſurer, the ſtore-keeper of the magazines,

the

the comptroller of the exciſe, the gaugers of caſks, and an inſpector of health. Diſagreements [b] have formerly ariſen be-

[b] About the year 1728 a diſpute aroſe between the council and aſſembly concerning the method of iſſuing orders for the public money; the former inſiſted upon that which was eſtabliſhed by the king's inſtructions to the governor; the latter had diſcovered, as they thought, a method more beneficial to the country, by making a previous application to themſelves neceſſary. Accordingly they framed an exciſe-bill in purſuance of this ſcheme: this bill the council rejected, and gave their reaſons for their conduct: theſe reaſons were drawn up by a committee, and were ſent, together with a draught of the bill, to the ſecretary of ſtate. The conduct of the council was approved, and an order was ſent to the governor to reject the draught of the exciſe-bill, as contrary to the conſtant uſage of Barbados, &c. Again, in preſident Berwick's time, the ſame topick was ſtarted, with ſome others equally prejudicial to the authority of the governor and council; and the like ſtagnation was given to public buſineſs: but the conduct of the council was again approved, and that of the aſſembly cenſured.

tween the council and aſſembly concerning the nomination of theſe officers, and alſo concerning the method of iſſuing the public money from the treaſury; their diſputes have gone ſo far, that references have been made to the throne. The offices of treaſurer, and ſtore-keeper, are confined to the members of the aſſembly. In paſſing all laws, the houſe of aſſembly forms that part of their conſtitution, which the commons houſe does in England. Four of the council nominated by the governor, and ſix of the aſſembly named by the ſpeaker, are a committee for ſettling the public accounts of the iſland; among which number is the treaſurer's account. The treaſurer cannot pay any public money, nor make any particular appropriation of money, without an act of the iſland, or an order from the governor and council. Three of the council and four of the aſ-

ſembly are appointed a committee to correſpond with the agent in Great Britain. The court of exchequer is held by a chief baron, and four aſſiſting barons, appointed by the governor and council. Any three make a court.

Barbados[c] is divided into five precincts, though there are eleven pariſhes; a judge and four aſſiſtants preſide in each precinct. They hold a court of common pleas for trial of all cauſes once every month, from the laſt Monday in January to the latter end of September. From

[c] St. Michael's precinct contains, St. Michael's, St. George's, and St. John's pariſhes.

St. James's precinct contains, St. James's and St. Thomas's pariſhes.

St. Peter's precinct contains, St. Peter's and St. Lucy's pariſhes.

Oſtin's precinct contains, Chriſt Church and St Philip's pariſhes.

Scotland precinct contains, St. Andrew's and St. Joſeph's pariſhes.

theſe courts appeals lie in all cauſes above ten pounds value to the governor and council: and from them in all cauſes above five hundred pounds to the king and council of Great Britain. The chief judges of the courts of common pleas take the probate of all deeds. The governor appoints the two maſters in chancery, the eſcheator, and ſolicitor general. The attorney general is appointed by patent; the judge of the vice-admiralty court, the regiſter, the clerk of the crown, the ſecretary, and clerk of the council, the provoſt marſhal, and naval officer, are appointed by patent. The caſual receiver and auditor general have their commiſſions from the crown; the ſurveyor general, and other officers of the cuſtoms, are appointed from the department of the treaſury; and upon a vacancy in the cuſtoms the ſurveyor general nominates *pro tempore*. The juſtices of the peace are appointed

appointed by a commiſſion iſſued by the governor with the conſent of the council; which commiſſion is generally iſſued ſoon after the appointment of a governor. The governor, by and with the advice of the council, appoints a chief juſtice of the court of grand ſeſſions, or general gaol delivery; which court is appointed by law to be held twice in every year. This court generally holds four days, and is formed by the chief juſtice, and any other five juſtices of the peace. Six freeholders from each pariſh are returned by the eldeſt member of council reſident in each pariſh, by virtue of the governor's writ (or commiſſion), to ſerve on the grand inqueſt, and petty juries. This court acquits or condemns all criminals,[a] the

[a] Governor Lowther once in the caſe of Brenan granted a pardon to the criminal before trial. A procedure unheard of in the conſtitution of Barbados, inconſiſtent, and unprecedented; however, the commander

commander in chief having a right to reſpite thoſe condemned for capital crimes from time to time: and to pardon thoſe convicted of inferior crimes. The juſtices in their ſeveral pariſhes hold a quarter ſeſſion for the appointment of conſtables, and rectifying of abuſes. The governor appoints a coroner to each pariſh. Gunners and matroſſes belonging to each of the five diviſions are under the command of the colonels of foot to which each diviſion belongs; but they are appointed by the commander in chief, at the recommendation of the ſaid colonels. The commiſſioners for taking care of the fortifications are the members of council and aſſembly, and field officers belonging to each precinct. The governor, as captain general, uſually preſides at the coun-

culprit (whoſe crime was killing his antagoniſt in a duel) was wiſe enough to retire to England, and obtain a pardon from a higher power.

cils

cils of war; but the commiſſion of preſi-det of the councils of war is often grant-ed to the lieutenant general. There are ſix regiments of foot militia in the iſland, and three of horſe, beſides a troop called the horſe guards[c]. There is an excellent armoury, and alſo a good train of artil-lery, in Barbados.

[c] The method of liſting, raiſing, and accoutring the militia, ſee in the Laws of Barbados.

Of

Of the Trade, Soil, and Climate.

NATURE hath been bountiful by fortifying the coaſt of Barbados, and rendering the greateſt part of that iſland inacceſſible to ſhips of fifty tons and upwards. An extenſive reef of rocks runs from the ſouth point eaſterly to the north-weſt. The other part of the coaſt the inhabitants have at a very great expence fortified, by erecting forts and batteries within gun-ſhot of each other; the repairs and maintenance of which amount to a great charge: an expence ſo heavy to the country, that it is to be hoped the government of Great-Britain will, ſome time or other, by their aſſiſtance, alleviate it.

The country abounds with plenty of proviſions of all ſorts, and the coaſt is well ſtored with a variety of good fiſh:

and

and in this country is preſerved that antient Britiſh hoſpitality, for which Great Britain was once ſo deſervedly famed.

It muſt not be concealed that this iſland, undoubtedly, wants an internal place of ſtrength for the inhabitants, which would ſerve as a ſecurity, after an unſucceſsful defence: ſuch a fortification as might be erected, would, under preſſing circumſtances, be a means of preſerving the iſland, until the king's fleet could get to its aſſiſtance.

The plantations of Barbados, oppreſſed by taxes, impoveriſhed by miſmanagement, and loaded by the great and neceſſary expences of their management (particularly, the advanced price of negroes), yield not now the profits they formerly afforded: notwithſtanding the high

high eſtimation Europeans may ſet upon Weſt India eſtates, yet it is an indiſputable fact, that the landed intereſt of Barbados (that is throughout the whole iſland) does not clear *communibus annis* four *per cent.* eſtimating the principal at what land uſually ſells for: the deſtruction of the woods of that iſland, though it renders the country more healthful, hath decreaſed the quantity of rain, and hath been thereby detrimental to the planters [f]. The ſoil of Barbados is in

[f] To bear up againſt ſo many diſcouragements, the utmoſt ſkill ought to be exerted in adjuſting the buſineſs of an eſtate; and, though it is true, that the want of ſeaſonable weather is ſufficient to baffle the greateſt abilities of the planter, yet it is equally true, that the failure of theſe eſtates proceeds very frequently from unſkilful management; ſo that when ſome eſtates, that are well attended to, yield a very profitable income, others again afford little or no profit. Indeed it may be ſaid with juſtice and propriety, that an eſtate as often fails from the unſkil-

general

general fruitful, but very different in different parts of the iſland, and frequently

fulneſs of the proprietor, in not maintaining a full quantity of ſtock upon it, as from the unſkilfulneſs of the ſteward (or manager): for the former, however, ſome reaſonable excuſes may be made, as the want of credit (a circumſtance always deſtructive to the good condition of a Weſt-India eſtate) or the want of opportunity to purchaſe ſtock: but for the latter no juſt apology whatever can be offered. Thus, notwithſtanding the uncertainty of profit, the unavoidable expence attending an eſtate is certain, and is inconceivably great. Suppoſe, for inſtance, an eſtate of only two hundred and ſixty acres: to work this properly, muſt be maintained upon it one hundred and eighty negroes, one hundred horned cattle, twelve horſes, forty ſheep, three tenants (or militia men) ſuppoſe with three in each family, who ſupport themſelves from the profits of the ground allowed them: a ſteward (or manager) whoſe annual ſalary may be from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pounds: an under ſteward (or driver), a diſtiller, and two apprentices, whoſe ſalaries together may be forty-five pounds *per annum*: add to this, the ſalaries of a town agent

in the ſame eſtate. Some ſpots afford a heavy clay ſoil, others a light ſand; ſome a dark heavy, others a light red earth; ſome parts wet and ſwampy, others dry and gravelly: but the land, almoſt every where, for the production of ſugar, requires rich manure; the preparation of which ſhews the ſkill of the planter, as ſome parts of the iſland require a light, others a heavy manure; and ſometimes

and book-poſter at fifteen or twenty pounds each; of an apothecary at thirty, or forty pounds *per annum*; of a farrier at fifteen or twenty; the commiſſions of an Engliſh agent at two and an half *per cent.* freight of ſugars, taxes, duties, repairs of buildings, and many incidental expences: nor muſt we forget the maintenance of the proprietor and his family, with eight or ten ſervants. From theſe particulars may be learnt the reaſonableneſs of the above aſſertion, that the landed intereſt in general does not neat four *per cent.* annually. The land, though long worn, will, it is thought by many good planters, produce as much as ever it did, aſſiſted by manure.

both

both in the ſame eſtate. The manufacture of ſugar is ingenious as well as uſeful. It is attended with great labour and expence, and requires ſkill and induſtry to perfect it. It was brought to pretty good perfection ſo early as 1650; but tobacco was firſt planted here, which at that time turned to no good account. The inhabitants were taught the art of making ſugar by the Dutch. The cane plant was firſt brought hither from Fernambucca in Braſil. The Barbadians rear all their horned cattle and ſheep, but few horſes are bred here: theſe are brought chiefly from the continent of America, and ſome few from England: the Engliſh horſes are beſt adapted for the ſaddle; the American horſes for hard labour.

The trade of Barbados is yet flouriſhing and conſiderable, notwithſtanding the

diſcouragements given to it by taxes, by duties, by the acceſſion of the large iſland of Jamaica, by the conqueſt of Grenada, by the acquiſition of the late neutral iſlands, by granting a free port to Dominique, by the diſtillation of ſpirits upon the continent of America, by the want of a proper ſtandard or regulation of the value of gold throughout the Weſt India iſlands; and laſtly, by the clandeſtine trade, which the Dutch of St. Euſtatia have formerly been famed for.

The annual internal expence of Barbados amounts to ſixteen thouſand pounds, beſides the conſiderable duties paid to the mother country. Bridge-town [g], the metropolis of that iſland, before the two

[g] Bridge-town is now rebuilding with a becoming elegance and uniformity; ſome uſeful meaſures having been taken by the legiſlature for that purpoſe.

deſtructive

deſtructive fires in 1766, conſiſted of about fifteen hundred dwelling-houſes and ſtores, chiefly built of brick and ſtone, and which were in general ſpacious, and elegantly decent: the rents of the houſes amounted to about forty thouſand pounds *per annum*. There are in that iſland three other towns of ſmaller note, called Oſtin's, St. James's, and Speight's. There are few public buildings in Barbados. The town-hall where the council and aſſembly meet, and where the courts of juſtice are held; the governor's houſe and arſenal ſituated a mile from Bridge-town, and the churches, are all that can properly be ſo termed. The churches are ſpacious, handſome buildings; the pews and pulpits are of cedar: and all the ornaments as decent as any where in the Britiſh empire.

The great value of Barbados to Great-Britain is beſt known from its vaſt con-

ſumption of Britiſh and Iriſh manufactures and commodities; add to this, the wealth expended by, and the conſumption of Barbadians who reſide in England; nor muſt we forget the large amount of the king's cuſtoms ariſing from the produce of this colony. It is judged, according to an accurate calculation, that four hundred ſhips of one hundred and thirty tons and upwards are employed in the trade of this iſland: from hence a nurſery and ſupport of ſeamen. It is ſuppoſed too, that the value of the exports from Great Britain alone, imported into this iſland, in certificate goods, Britiſh produce, and manufactures, is about eighty thouſand pounds *per annum*. The goods ſent from Great Britain are chiefly woollen, linen, Mancheſter velvets, ſilk, iron, braſs, copper, leather, laces for linen, hats, wigs, ſhoes, ſtockings, china, glaſs, earthen

earthen wares, pictures, clocks, watches, jewels, plate, gold and ſilver lace, medicines, oats, peaſe, beans, cheeſe, bacon, ſtarch, oatmeal, gunpowder, bricks, tiles, lead, paint, oil, coals, cordage, ſugar, pots, and drips, hoops, pewter, ſoap, candles, ſnuff, cut tobacco, pipes, cards, refined ſugar, wine, beer, ale, cyder, perry, ſpice, fruit, tea, pickles, guns, ſwords, piſtols, walking canes, horſes, mules, grind-ſtones, paving-ſtones, books, toys, ſtationary, cutlery, Birmingham, and haberdaſhery wares, coaches, chariots, chaiſes, all ſorts of houſhold-goods, &c. beſides the ſupplies from Ireland, and the very conſiderable importations of timber, fiſh, &c. from the northern colonies; add to this, the trade to Madeira and the coaſt of Africa, from which laſt place the importation of negroes is very great: a trade that employs many ſhips be-

longing to Briſtol, Liverpool, Lancaſter, and Glaſgow, as well as from London.

As to the exports of Barbados, ſugar is its ſtaple: the following is a computation taken from good authority, of what may have been the exports of Barbados *communibus annis* [h] for the laſt ten years:

20000 hhds. of ſugar, 6000 hhds. of rum, 4670 bags and barrels of ginger, 600 bags of cotton,	Shipped to London, Briſtol, Liverpool, Lancaſter, Falmouth, Whitehaven, and moſt other parts of Great Britain; the rum is uſually re-ſhipped to Ireland.
500 hhds. of ſugar, 1650 of rum, 10 of molaſſes,	to Philadelphia.
580 hhds. of ſugar, 2580 of rum, 22 of molaſſes,	to Virginia and Maryland.

[h] 2200 hhds. of ſugar, and 7000 of rum, are ſuppoſed to be conſumed annually in the iſland. An hhd. of ſugar weighs from twelve to ſixteen hundred weight; an hhd. of rum contains 100 gallons. The cotton trade has been much neglected; from a proper ſupply of cotton, the inhabitants might manufacture ſome parts of their apparel, and thus the lower ſort of the people might be uſefully employed.

700 hhds.

700 hhds. of ſugar, 2020 of rum, 50 of molaſſes,	to New England,
100 hhds. of ſugar, 450 of rum,	to New York and Jerſey.
280 hhds. of ſugar, 1050 of rum,	to N. and S. Carolina,
120 hhds. of ſugar, 1500 of rum, 20 of molaſſes,	to Newfoundland.
40 hhds. of ſugar, 180 of rum,	to Bermudas.

From the above calculation, may be learnt the great utility of this colony alone to the mother country; not only by the ſupply of its manufactures, which prevents large ſums of money from being carried out of England to purchaſe theſe commodities in foreign countries, but alſo by employing and ſupporting a very great number of ſeamen, artificers, and manufacturers, who are concerned in the ſeveral branches of trade dependent on the ſugar iſlands. If then this ſmall colony is ſo uſeful to Great Britain, as from hence

hence it appears to be, of how much more conſequence muſt all her colonies together be found? Surely of ſo much benefit, as to be intitled always to her protection, encouragement, and aſſiſtance. From their reſources the colonies claim a ſhare of the merit of having raiſed Great Britain to be one of the firſt kingdoms in Europe for power and opulence, as ſhe is undoubtedly the firſt country in the world for affording every convenience and bleſſing of life.

The white inhabitants of Barbados are computed to be about twenty-two thouſand, and the ſlaves to be about ſeventy-two thouſand[i]: a large number to be

[i] A ſtate of ſlavery naturally fills an European mind with ideas of pity and deteſtation, and furniſhes a plauſible objection againſt thoſe countries that admit it: but when we conſider (what really is the caſe) that the negro ſlaves are conſtantly ſupplied

maintained

maintained in ſo ſmall an iſland. In St. John's pariſh, about ten or twelve miles from Bridge-town, is a college for the education of youth; and a very large eſtate, capable of clearing three thouſand pounds *per annum* Engliſh (or Sterling) money,

with food, with cloaths, with houſes, with apothecaries to inſpect their health; all which create a large annual expence to their maſters; that though they labour much, yet that they have their hours and ſometimes days of recreation, we are excited to conclude their ſituation to be leſs miſerable, than that of the poor inhabitants of many European countries: nor have the ſlaves that idea of liberty which European nations have; and which, if they poſſeſſed, would tend much to heighten their wretchedneſs; but their ignorance in a great meaſure alleviates their unhappineſs, and adds to their content. They who chuſe baptiſm are not denied it: but neither baptiſm, nor a reſidence in Europe, is ſufficient to ſhake off their ſtate of ſlavery. Few of theſe poor wretches ſhew any diſpoſition to hearken to the doctrine of Chriſtianity: they are ſo fond of their own idolatry, that it would be impoſſible to convert them.

was left by Mr. Codrington to ſupport this charitable inſtitution; from whence, under proper regulations, many advantages might be enjoyed by the inhabitants of that iſland. There are two ſtreams in Barbados called rivers, one in the eaſt, and the other in the ſouth weſt part of the iſland. In the center are ſeveral bituminous ſprings, ſome of which furniſh the green tar, of great uſe in many diſtempers, and often ſupplies the want of pitch and lamp oil.

Barbados abounds with wells of exceeding good water, and contains large reſervoirs of rain water: the woods having been deſtroyed, and the land converted into corn and cane fields; the iſland preſents to the eye the moſt beautiful appearance of ſpring, ſummer, and autumn: nor is there any place in the Weſt-Indies comparable to Barbados for the elegancies

and

and conveniencies of life. The fruits (amongſt which, the pine and orange are in very great perfection) are ſeldom or never out of ſeaſon, and are by no means inferior to the European fruits [k].

The conveniencies of travelling in this country are few; for though every manſion affords an hoſpitable reception to the traveller, yet, with good materials, the public roads are very bad. It ought to be the policy of every country to have the means of travelling made agreeable, and to open an eaſy intercourſe with different parts of the country; and the Barbadians neglect their own intereſt, as well as convenience, by neglecting their public roads. Turnpikes might be eſtabliſhed here; if not in the country, yet they may in the town, and the avenues leading

[k] For their deſcription, ſee Hughes's Natural Hiſtory of Barbados.

to

to the town; and the annual ſum of money now uſeleſsly raiſed in each pariſh, for repairing the roads, might be collected by a different tax, and formed into a fund, under the direction of commiſſioners in each precinct, who, employing ſkilful, and laborious ſurveyors, might make good roads, and alter the face of this country to a great advantage. Many horned cattle and horſes are now killed every year by the badneſs of the roads: hence one ſource of the expences of the planter's eſtates.

The climate, though warm, is by no means unhealthful. The heat is much alleviated by a conſtant cool ſea-breeze. The glaſs (or thermometer) ſeldom exceeds 88; but it is as ſeldom lower than 72. This will appear moderate, compared to ſome parts of the continent of America, where the glaſs has reached 103. Regularity here, as in almoſt all countries,

countries, will preſerve, and ſometimes will give, good health. Europeans, when they firſt come to this iſland, are too neglectful of the neceſſary care required in a hot climate, and often feel the fatal effects of ſuch inattention; but the natives enjoy good health, and frequently live to a very old age. There were living in this iſland a few yeare ago, within ſix miles of eaeh other, five men, whoſe ages together exceeded four hundred years; and there lately died in this iſland, at the advanced age of one hundred and ten years, Mrs. Vaughan, a gentlewoman who had always reſided upon the iſland. She had eight brothers and one ſiſter, who all lived to ſee the youngeſt upwards of ſixty years old; the longevity of its inhabitants proves the healthfulneſs of a country. Nor muſt the author of theſe ſheets neglect to relate what has fallen within his own obſervations on this

ſubject.

ſubject. He knew two gentlemen, whoſe extreme ill health would not permit them to live in England, the one on account of a rheumatic, the other on account of a gouty complaint, much relieved, and their health preſerved, by exchanging the climate of England for that of Barbados. From hence let us be taught, not to judge too raſhly of the inconveniencies of a warm climate. God made all countries to be inhabited; and probably he has beſtowed ſome advantages upon thoſe climates between the tropicks, which colder regions want.

A LIST

A LIST of the Commanders in Chief of Barbados from its Firſt Settlement.

Anno

1629 COlonel Henry Hawley appointed Governor
1641 Philip Bell, Eſq. Lieutenant Governor
1650 Francis Lord Willoughby,
1652 Daniel Searle, Eſq.
1660 Thomas Modiford, Eſq. } Governors
1661 Humphrey Walrond, Eſq. Preſident
1663 Francis Lord Willoughby,
1667 William Lord Willoughby,
1674 Sir Jonathan Atkins, Knt. } Governors
1680 Richard Dutton, Eſq. Governor
1685 Edwin Stede, Lieutenant Governor
1690 James Kendal, Eſq.
1694 The Hon. James Ruſſel, } Governors
1696 Francis Bond, Eſq. Preſident
1698 The Hon. Ralph Grey, Governor
1701 John Farmer, Eſq. Preſident
1703 Sir Bevill Granvill, Knt.
1707 Mitford Crow, Eſq.
1711 Robert Lowther, Eſq. } Governors
1714 William Sharpe, Eſq. Preſident
1715 Robert Lowther, Eſq. Governor
1720 John Frere, Eſq. Preſident
1721 Samuel Cox, Eſq. Preſident

Anno

1722 Henry Worſley, Eſq. Governor
1731 Samuel Berwick, Eſq. } Preſidents
1732 James Dottin, Eſq. }
1733 Lord Viſcount Howe, Governor
1735 James Dottin, Eſq. Preſident
1739 Robert Byng, Eſq. Governor
1740 James Dottin, Eſq. Preſident
1742 Sir Thomas Robinſon, Bart. } Governors
1747 The Hon. Henry Grenville, }
1753 Ralph Weekes, Eſq. Preſident
1756 Charles Pinfold, Eſq. Governor
1766 Samuel Rous, Eſq. Preſident
1768 William Spry, Eſq. Governor.

FINIS.